

# Gedling Country Park Management Plan

2015-2020

Fourth Edition



## Executive Summary

### Statement from Councillor Peter Barnes

Gedling Borough Council is extremely proud of the developments which this brand new Country Park has undergone so far. From a landscape of industrial heritage and spoil heaps to an ecologically rich landscape of woodlands, grasslands and lagoons, the transformation has been astonishing.

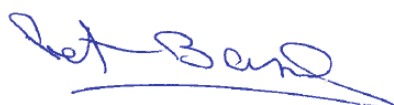
With the amazing support of the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park we are committed to improving this amenity year on year, for the benefit of the people of Gedling and the wider community.

Since the parks opening in 2015 the council have provided a new Visitor Centre/Café, Play Area, Memorial Garden and Tatton Bee Garden. Future developments will see the installation of viewing platforms around the East Tip of the site and also a Community Orchard. All these developments further cement the council's priority to develop the park into a first class visitor attraction that showcases the conservation of the heritage and wildlife on the site. To compliment this vision the council are delivering on a long-term 'Aspirational Plan' to cover the period 2020-2030. The aim of the plan is to continue enhance and improve the facilities on offer to the wider community.

We were extremely pleased to announce that the park had retained its Green Flag Award status for 2019/2020, making this the parks fourth award since its opening in 2015.



Councillor Peter Barnes – Portfolio Holder for Environment

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.



Elected Members of the Council and Council staff celebrating the  
Fourth year of Green Flag status

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November 2019



**The new £1.5million Café opened to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING





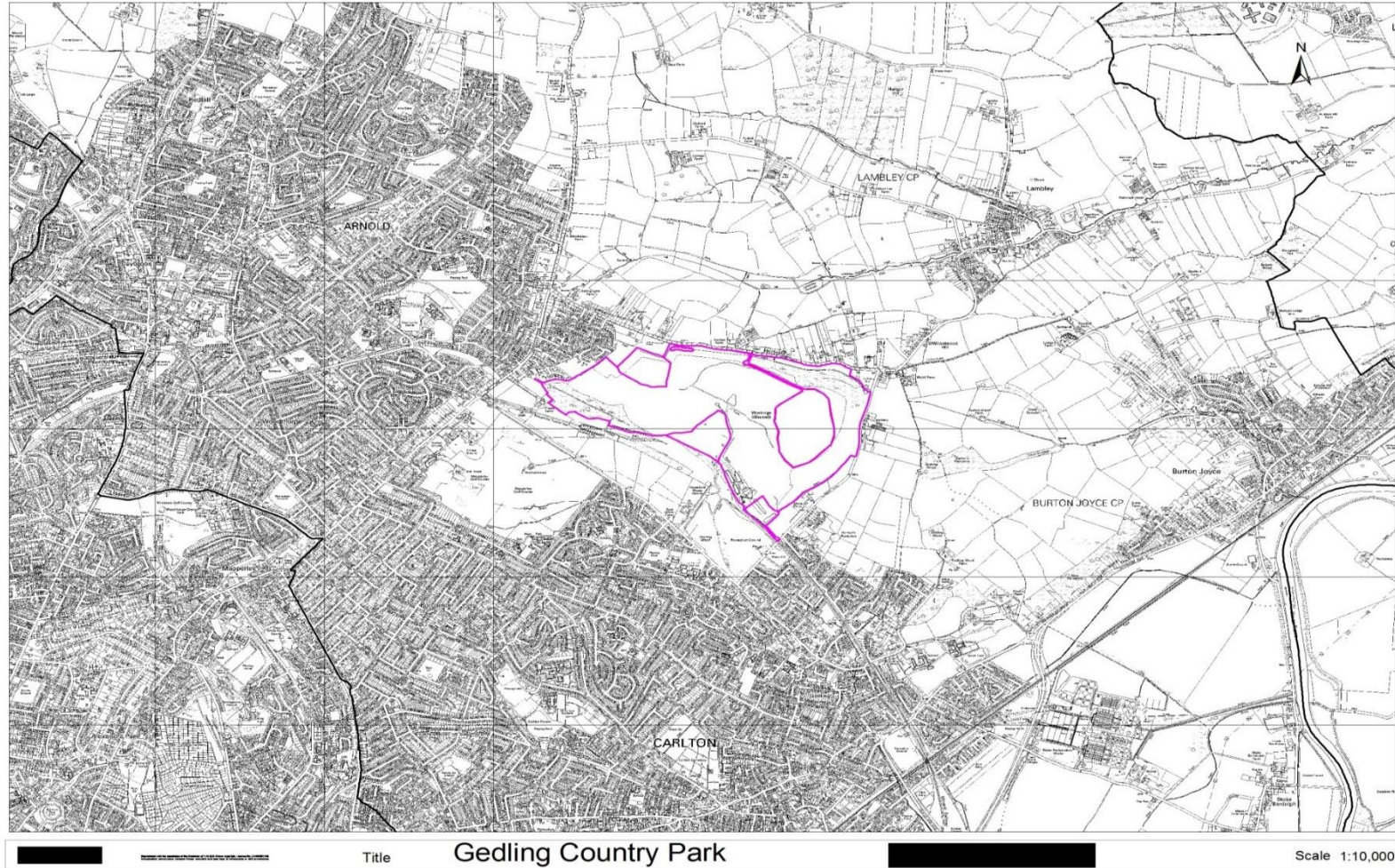
## **DIRECTIONS - Coming to Gedling Country Park from the M1 North**

- At junction 21a, take the A46 exit to Braunstone Frith/Kirby Muxloe/B5380
- Keep right at the fork, follow signs for A46/Leicester North/Newark
- Continue on A46
- Take the A6097 ramp to Mansfield/East Bridgford/Bingham & Ind Est
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Bridgford St/A6097
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Epperstone By-Pass/A6097
- Turn left onto Ton Ln
- Turn right onto Lambley Rd
- Continue onto Park Ln
- Continue onto Main St
- Continue onto Spring Ln

## **Coming to Gedling Country Park from the A1 South**

- Merge onto A1
- Continue onto A1(M)
- Keep left at the fork to stay on A1(M)
- Continue onto A1
- Continue onto A1(M) (signs for Red House/The South/M18/M1)
- Take the A57/A614/B6420 exit toward Worksop/Sheffield/Nottingham/Ollerton/Babworth
- At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit
- At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Blyth Rd/A614
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Old Rufford Rd/A614
- Slight right onto Ollerton Rd/A614
- Slight left onto Old Rufford Rd/A614
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit and stay on Old Rufford Rd/A614
- Slight left onto B684
- At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Spring Lane

# GEDLING COUNTRY PARK LAYOUT PLAN



# Gedling Country Park



Digital Images of Gedling Country Park



## **Vision Statement**

To Enhance and develop Gedling Country Park for the enjoyment of its visitors whilst promoting its heritage, wildlife, recyclable energies and recreational values, to ensure the park continues to be a destination Country Park in Nottinghamshire.



**Live music enjoyed by everyone at the Gedling Country Park opening event in March 2015**

## **GEDLING COUNTRY PARK – A COMMUNITY ASSET**

Gedling Country Park is a significant public asset offering a range of leisure opportunities to the community as a whole. With the help of Gedling Homes and the Homes and Communities Agency, Gedling Borough Council have collectively invested £1.5m in transforming this former colliery site into a welcoming country park with some of the best views in Nottinghamshire.

This document is a projection of how the park will be managed and maintained over the next 5 years. In common with management plans for newly developed sites, it sets out the details in a 5 year cycle over that period. It outlines the periodic operations and actions, which will ensure the sustainability of the site's fabric and continuous development of its assets.

The plan will be reviewed at regular intervals keeping within the detail of a five-year cycle, to ensure that the Council's aims and objectives are fulfilled while meeting our community's needs and expectations.

*Councillor Peter Barnes*

### **Portfolio Holder for Environment**



**Gedling Country Park's lower lagoon, photo credit Chris Hill**

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# **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

## **Introduction**

This 'Management Plan' will be the first for Gedling Country Park. It's creation and development is to fit alongside the Council's vision for the park and that of the 'Friends of' group over the future years. The plan will include the years between 2015 (when it was first opened) and 2020, to be followed by a review and update.

Objectives within the management plan will be made to provide structure for future development and will be measurable against time.

The document has been made to be a comprehensible paper for the public to read and will be made available along with its 'Action Plan' in PDF format on Gedling Borough Council's website <http://www.gedling.gov.uk/>. A hard copy of the Management Plan is also available by request at the Reception in the Civic Centre.

The plan addresses recent successes within the park, and issues that have arisen since its opening in March 2015 whilst fulfilling the Authority's aims. This document shows the potential of the 'Friends of' group and the park as an educational resource, with use as an outdoor classroom for local schools and other user groups, taking interest in the parks Fauna, Flora and its Industrial heritage.

The 'Friends of Gedling Country Park' and volunteers are paramount to the future development of the park and have already had a huge impact since the park's opening. The groups work closely with the Park Rangers and the Parks Development Officer; together they will be a catalyst for the creative development of the park, bringing organised activities, enjoyment and education to all visitors.

This 'Management Plan' is not a stand-alone document and should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies and documentation. The plan does however bring together a wide range of issues and information in one document and where relevant, highlights links to other, more detailed documents and policies.

## **Background**

Gedling Colliery was the life blood of Gedling and many surrounding villages, based three-miles to the East of Nottingham. Surface works started in 1899 and the shafts commenced being sunk in 1900. In 1902 coal production started and this continued until 8<sup>th</sup> November 1991 when the colliery was closed. The colliery was originally owned by the Digby Colliery Company from Giltbrook, they merged with Bestwood Company to become Bestwood Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. Nationalisation took place in 1947 to form the National Coal board East Midlands No.6 Area and subsequently into the National Coal Board South Nottinghamshire Area from 1967.

From the early 1950's to the late 1960's Gedling was a "big hitter" and regularly produced a million tons of coal during this period. Maximum manpower of 2,500 was achieved in the 1950's. After World War two Gedling became a receiving pit for many migrant miners from diverse locations around the world and became known as "the pit of all nations". During the period of mining operation a total of 130 men lost their lives at the pit.

Shortly after the pit closed, the mining infrastructure was removed from site and the land underwent major restoration works including the importation of top soil, tree planting and re-profiling of the Lagoons to improve their appearance and in order to allow a wider diversity of wildlife to inhabit them. These works improved the visual element of the spoil heaps and provided important wildlife habitats. The site as a whole has a great variety of habitats including grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and lagoons.

Thirty years on since the pit closure, nature has been able to take over, notable species of fauna including short eared owls, skylarks, lapwings and rare butterflies amongst others have inhabited the land making the site extremely important for wildlife.

In 2013 Gedling Borough Council signed a lease with Harworth Estates (the land owners) to develop the 238 hectare site into a destination country park. However, following future negotiations between both parties, the site is now solely owned by the council.

Since February 2014 major development works have taken place including the installation of new footpaths, making safe the old colliery drainage works and manholes, installation of boundary fencing and engineering works to the main header wall on the Ouse Dyke enabling efficient drainage of the site.

A new access road and car park from Spring Lane completed the development for public access, this area is also ideal for visitors to take advantage of the open panoramic views to the west, south and east.

Due to the openness and the height of the site, views of Lincoln Cathedral and Belvoir Castle can be enjoyed from the footpath around the East tip, along with views of the Trent Valley and into Leicestershire.

A solar panel farm has been installed on the east tip of the spoil heap providing power approximately 1,800 local homes per year.

A new children's play area on the site was opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. New additions to the park also include a Miners Memorial Garden, Tatton Bee Garden and a visitor centre/café' which we hope to expand in the coming years.

Gedling Country Park is a unique site within Nottinghamshire, since 1899 the land has been used for production of energy, historically fossil fuels and now it boasts green credentials with the Solar panel farm. It is home to an abundance of important wildlife species and it is Gedling Borough Council's aim to conserve and enhance the wildlife as well as providing a destination Country Park for all to enjoy.

Along with the Council's parks and street care teams, the 'Friends of Gedling Country Park' are actively managing the site, with the assistance and direction of the Council. The 'Friends of' group has over 200 paying members and regularly host volunteer days and wildlife walks.



## **Motivation**

Gedling Country Park is currently in its infant state after being opened in March 2015. In June 2015 the land was acquired by Gedling Borough Council from Harworth Estates.

This Management Plan will be used as a living-working document to outline the commitments of the Council and the 'Friends of Gedling Country Park'.

The Council is committed to achieving the Countrywide Park Standards, and retaining the Green Flag Award. Achieving a Green Flag Award visibly demonstrates to the local community and local Councilors, a clear management of the quality of the park into the future. Since 2018 the park now holds Local Nature Reserve status.

The management plan is essential, as within it, the aims and objectives are set out, to achieve within a time-scale and to a standard specified by the parks development team. This plan encompasses all the criteria of a comprehensive management plan, advised by the Green Flag consortium which, is licensed to Keep Britain Tidy by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) who own the Green Flag Award scheme.

Gedling Borough Council is committed to raising and maintaining its standards within all of its parks and green spaces now and into the future.

## Review and Monitoring

The purpose of reviewing the results of the management plan shows whether the correct interventions have been made, i.e. have the aims and objectives for the year (and the future) been achieved by appropriate investment of resources and manpower, whether for promotion of the park, development and maintenance of the site and its facilities, or as a capital investment.

Monitoring will highlight where the successes and failures have occurred, how changes can be made and built upon; or mitigated as the case may be. The results leave space for flexibility when necessary, to fit any circumstances of change.

Reviewing and monitoring of all management practices and other circumstances impacting on the site, will occur at least annually, the timing to tie in with the Council's annual budget review exercise.

Throughout the year in the course of planned meetings, senior officers, operative colleagues, 'Friends of' volunteers, outside agencies and partners will be kept informed by the park manager, of progress towards achieving our objectives. The results of the new marketing plan should indicate, e.g. gaps in 'community participation' and in any case greatly assist with decision making.

The 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park Group is and has been a vital resource in helping the Parks Management to develop the park. The aspirations of the group and the individuals who have formed the 'Committee' have helped develop Gedling Country Park in its early stages, and will continue to prove vital to the parks future developments.



## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **Name and Location**

Gedling Country Park, Spring Lane, Mapperley, NG4 4PE

The park is located between the two towns of Arnold and Gedling, which are 3 miles north of Nottingham City Centre. The park is 230 hectares in size and hosts more than 9.2km of pathways. The park is bounded by Spring Lane to the north, Lambley Lane to the east, Plains road to the West and Arnold Lane to the south.

Ownership: Gedling Borough Council, Civic Centre, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6LU.

Grid reference: SK 61166 44142 – 461166: 344142

## Site History, Heritage and Features

Gedling was first settled in Saxon times, taking its name from a chieftain called Gedl, and was recorded in the Domesday Book. Now a suburban village it is absorbed in the Nottingham conglomeration, it grew from being a farming and frame knitting community as a result of mining at Gedling Colliery. Closed in 1991, the Century old colliery site was developed into Gedling Country Park and opened in March 2015. A memorial in the form of a miner's lamp stands in the centre of the village, dedicated to the 130 men who lost their lives in accidents at the pit and to all those who worked there. Nearby is the fountain, an ornate brick and stone structure presented by the Countess of Carnarvon to the people of Gedling in 1874 at a local village gathering place. Now waterless, the fountain was originally supplied from the Allwell spring further up Arnold Lane.



**Miner's Memorial Lamp**

### **Gedling Village**

Also on Arnold Lane is Manor Farmhouse, one of the oldest buildings in Gedling, adjacent to the more recent Hardstaff Almshouses. These twelve almshouses were built in memory of Elizabeth Hardstaff in 1935, originally to accommodate the widows and orphans of miners. Designed by the renowned architect T.C Howitt, the almshouses won the Royal Institute of British Architect's Bronze Medal. The building on Shearing Hill which is now the youth club was formerly Gedling's station on the railway known locally as the 'Mineral Line'. This once busy route passed through the village and the colliery site from Colwick Junction towards Mapperley Tunnel and beyond.

## **Environmental and Ecological Status**

The Council established the park as a recreational facility for the people of Gedling. As such it has been developed and continues to be developed to cater for a wide range of recreational pursuits. In 2019 the site received its fourth Green Flag Award and the site is now declared as a Local Nature Reserve. There are several non-statutory sites of special interest within the surrounding area which are listed in the EMEC Ecology report, available at the 'Field Assessment'.



**Terry Lock, chairman of the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park  
alongside one of the Lagoons on site.**

# A WELCOMING PLACE



# A WELCOMING PLACE

## Aims and Objectives

### Aims

Gedling Borough Council's newest country park has so far received great interest from the public as was seen on the opening event with upwards of two thousand people attending despite the appalling weather conditions. The Council's aim is to provide a great first impression for all visitors to the park.

Before the opening of Gedling Country Park, it was decided that the mining heritage of the site would be celebrated by the presence of two refurbished mining carts at the entrance to the park. Below are two pictures of the mining carts before refurbishment and in situ on site.



Mining Cart donated by Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Ltd. Councillor Peter Barnes pictured before renovation was undertaken.



Renovated mining cart after being sand blasted and painted. Inscriptions paid for by Gedling Borough Council and completed by Sherwood Sheet Metals, showing the name of the mine and its production dates.

## Objectives

- Good clean and safe access for all
- Maintain all accesses, car parks, pathways and fencing in good order, mindful of DDA and visitors/staff safety
- Clear signage both externally and internally.

## Achieving the Objectives

### Access

Public transport links local areas to Spring Lane, Lambley Lane and Arnold Lane, all bordering the Country park on the North, East and South sides. Parking within the site as recently, been increased to approximately two-hundred spaces. The parks eastern boundary is bordered by Lambley Lane Playing fields, at which there is additional parking for approx. 50 cars. Access to the park can be made from any of the 4 gates around its perimeter. The Northern 3 access points are suitable for pushchair and wheelchair users, and recent developments have seen the access point through Lambley Lane Playing Fields also suitable for these users. To comply with the need for disability access, two new wheelchair accessible gates have now been installed during 2019/2020.



### Modified DDA Compliant Gates from New Housing Development

Requirements for disabled users must be considered, all disabled people have the rights to the avoidance of discrimination, 'rights of Access – goods, facilities, services and premises'; this covers public services and providers of products. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1996, it has been unlawful for service providers to treat disabled people less favourably for a reason related to their disability.



Commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 1999, service providers have had to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide their services; inclusive design techniques are featured in the park, as it is recognised nationally that disabled people are currently under-represented as park users. In line with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1996, it is Gedling Borough Council's aim to promote accessibility to all and have now fulfilled its commitment to have a DDA Access Audit completed by 2019. The results of this independent report will now influence future actions within the Management Plan and address any discrepancies found by the report.

Footpaths around the site have been named after the seams within the old mine to reflect the mines heritage on the site, High Hazels, Main Bright, Top Hard and Low Hazels were popular choices, chosen after speaking to mining historians and the local public.

Confirmation has been received from Nottinghamshire County Council that the bus stops which serve Gedling Country Park are to be altered to assist public access. These works will include providing raised boarding kerbs, plus dropped kerbs to enable passengers to access the Nottingham inbound bus stop.

Nottinghamshire County Council have also suggested that they may be able to relocate the stops closer to the Country Park and these works have now been completed during 2019.

### **Use of Signage**

Directional signs in the form of brown 'Tourist Signs' exist on local roads pointing to the main car park on Spring Lane.

On turning in to the car park visitors are greeted with welcome signage, as seen below.

Two identical 'Welcome signs' are in place at the entrance to the Spring Lane car park on both the left and right hand side of the road.



There are three information signs on site that are shown in the image below, placed strategically at points where paths meet and at the two main entrances to the site.



### Visitors finding their way through the park using the new signage.

These signs are identical in their construction and host 'you are here' symbols and are orientated to where the sign is placed, and what the visitor can see from their position. The signs were updated in 2019 to reflect the addition of the play area, visitor centre and memorial garden. Future updates may be required as the park is further developed.

In addition to these information signs are two lecterns showing the information in the picture below. These smaller lecterns hold key information for visitors including, site prohibitions and path routes. Again, the maps on these lecterns are orientated to the position at which they are placed, allowing visitors to easily follow the footpaths to the path route they are looking for.

**Welcome to Gedling Country Park**

**Cycling and walking routes**

- Blue Route - Blue (Easy)**  
The route is 6.6 miles (10.6 km) long, with paths and gentle inclines. Suitable for all abilities.
- Yellow Route - Yellow (Moderate)**  
The route is 2.7 miles (4.3 km) long, with 'Moderate' and the majority of the route is a challenging gradient at the far western corner of the park.
- Red Route - Red (Challenging)**  
The route is 2.8 miles (4.5 km) long, with 'Challenging' and the majority of the route is a challenging gradient at the far western corner of the park.
- Green Route - Green (Challenging)**  
The route is 2.7 miles (4.3 km) long, with 'Challenging' and the majority of the route is a challenging gradient at the far western corner of the park.

**Car park opening times**  
Opening times: Every day from dawn  
Closing times: Nov - Feb: 9pm, March - Oct: dusk

**Country park general information**

- Please keep dogs under control at all times and do not let them off their leads in the park, particularly the grounds. There are also facilities for general walking.
- Please help us conserve the diversity of the wildlife in the park. Please do not pick flowers, disturb nesting birds or damage any nests or eggs.
- Please help us to keep the park clean and green by using the litter bins provided.
- Please help us to conserve the diversity of the wildlife in the park. Please do not pick flowers, disturb nesting birds or damage any nests or eggs.
- Please help us to conserve the diversity of the wildlife in the park. Please do not pick flowers, disturb nesting birds or damage any nests or eggs.

**Site Prohibitions:** No Camping, No Fire, No Alcohol, No Smoking, No Dogs, No Pets, No Drunken Driving, No Drunken Swimming, No Drunken Parking, No Drunken Flying, No Drunken Feeding, No Drunken Fishing, No Drunken Hunting.

**Contact:** gedlingcountrypark, gedlingcountrypark, www.gedling.gov.uk

One of two lecterns located at the two footpath entrances onto the park.

Adjacent to the Spring Lane car park, a new notice board has been positioned next to the information sign. This notice board will host information about events on site and throughout the Borough, including those which the 'Friends Of' group' are hosting.

To give directional information to visitors on the footpaths within the park, 'way marker' posts have been installed around the site, using colour coded symbols which match the colours of the routes.

A total of eleven interpretation boards have now been commissioned for the site and all of these have now been completed and installed. The eleven boards include:

- Mining History
- Green Energy Production
- Butterfly Walk Information
- Pond and Lagoon Information
- Wildflower Meadow Information
- Tatton Bee Garden
- Compass Panel
- Fauna Panel
- Flora Panel
- Colliery Panel
- Railway Panel

They are strategically placed around the site and paper copies of the design are available on request.

# HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE



# **HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE**

## **Aims and objectives**

### **Aims**

Gedling Borough Councils' aim is to achieve a healthy, safe and secure environment in all of its parks, for the public to relax in and enjoy.

Parks that are well used and have a sense of local ownership, and parks that are well promoted are less likely to be prone to anti-social behaviour, as well as making visitors feel more secure.

### **Objectives**

- Good, clean and safe access for all
- Maintain all accesses, car parks, pathways and fencing in good order, mindful of DDA and visitor/staff safety
- Deal with Anti-social behaviour in an effective manner
- Complying to statutory instrument 2004 no.118 prescribed descriptions (England) order 2004 (Established statutory crime and disorder strategies) open spaces act 1906
- Deal with Incidents/Accidents and apply appropriate reporting/investigation.
- Promote the park as an inexpensive option for exercise i.e. walking/cycling and sports activities

## **Achieving the Objectives**

### **Security**

Successful management of anti-social behaviour and vandalism contribute heavily towards the overall safety of a park, giving its visitors confidence to use the space. The prompt response to the removal of fly tipping, graffiti and dog fouling has proven to reduce the reoccurrence (Green Places, 2008) of vandalism on other parks in the Borough, and the Council will endeavour to deal with such antisocial behaviour on Gedling Country Park in the same efficient manner. On Gedling Borough Council Parks and Open spaces, we aim to remove graffiti containing offensive, sexual or racial material within 24 hours, and the remainder within 7 working days.

Our Park Rangers, parks maintenance operatives, Neighbourhood Wardens and 'Friends' Group members have a daily presence within the park. Hopefully this increases the perception of being safe and secure for our visitors.



### **Park Ranger and Neighbourhood Warden**

#### **Handing out dog poo bags at the Country Park opening event.**

The Parks Development Team, Park Rangers, Parks and Street Care staff (PASC) and the community safety team are all working to make the park a secure place. The park is regularly inspected and patrolled by:

- Park Rangers
- Grounds maintenance Staff
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Police Community Support Officers
- Members of the 'Friends of' group

Any findings are reported promptly to the PASC Manager. The Grounds staff and/or the Environment Officer ensure the repairs are completed satisfactorily with direction from the PASC Manager.

Any criminal damage in the park is reported and logged with the police and Gedling Borough's Anti-Social Behaviour team. These incidents are discussed at monthly 'Anti-Social Behaviour meeting' with the local Community Beat Manager.

As with most parks within the area, it was decided at the design stage that the installation of height barriers on the entrances would deter fly tipping and discourage encroachment by travellers.

## **Health and Safety**

It is the responsibility of Gedling Borough Council to recognise and accept its responsibility as an employer for providing a safe and healthy work place and working environment. Accordingly it is the policy of the Council to give the greatest importance to Safety, Health and Welfare of its employees.

The council also recognises its responsibilities towards the safety of visitors, contractors and other persons who enter Council premises and to the safety of persons who may be affected by its activities. This includes volunteers on the park such as the Gedling Country Park 'Friends' Group who are issued with the correct PPE and work equipment to undertake their tasks. Tool talks are given by the Park Rangers to ensure all activities run safely and all activities are risk assessed prior to them taking place. In addition they also have their own public liability insurance that covers their environmental tasks. Following on from organised events, debriefs are held to ensure any acquired learning is taken on board and to share best practice.

All accidents in the park are recorded immediately upon being reported and follow up management action, investigation and monitoring. See example of reporting form in the Health & Safety Appendix 2. In addition, risk assessments are carried out for all activities in the park. See example in Health and safety Appendix 1. We also prepare and regularly review manual handling assessments, COSHH assessments and operating procedures, including Hand Arm Vibration monitoring.

Gedling Country Park provides multiple health benefits to the local and wider community. Currently the site is utilised by Parkrun, adults run on Saturday morning and juniors on Sunday mornings every weekend. Gedling Homes walking group, a local ladies running group and environmental activities in conjunction with Gedling Borough Council include hedge and tree planting amongst other activities.

# WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN





## **WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN**



### **Aims and Objectives**

#### **Aims**

Gedling Borough Council are committed to providing a clean park, with a well maintained landscape and facilities.

Instances of anti-social behaviour are far higher in parks that have fallen into disrepair, and the best way to combat such behaviour in parks lies in good design, maintenance and management, rather than heavy-handed security controls.

#### **Objectives**

- To manage and maintain soft landscape and trees
- To ensure hard landscaping, e.g. carpark, entrance road and footpaths are well maintained
- To review facilities in consultation with all appropriate users
- To keep the park clean and free from litter, graffiti and dog fouling and to action preventative measures.

#### **Achieving the objectives**

The Gedling Country Park Action Plan can be found on Page 50 onwards.

#### **Landscape Maintenance**

The Grounds Maintenance Staff from PASC maintain the park to a good level of horticultural practice (see Landscape Quality Manual, available from the PASC Department, Jubilee House, and during the Field Assessment).

Gedling Country Park currently has a diverse range of habitat types including: Planted Broad-leaved Woodlands, Semi-natural Broad-leaved Woodland, Dense and Scattered Scrub, Bare Ground, Improved Grassland, Poor Semi-improved Grassland, Semi-improved Neutral Grassland, Dry Ditches, Wet Flushes and Open Water. The variety of habitats across the park provide year round interest to visitors and the maintenance plan for the Park will aim to maintain and enhance these features in to the future.

## Tree Maintenance

Quarterly ground inspections are carried out on the trees at Gedling Country Park, with particular attention paid to older specimens for damaged branches, with findings dealt with promptly under strict Health and Safety guidelines by in house staff trained in Arboriculture. The majority of the work done on these trees is those highlighted as Dead, Dying or Diseased or posing any safety risk to the public.

We are currently working towards developing a Woodland Tree Management Plan for the site, which will outline future maintenance requirements and the timing of works by our in-house tree team. New tree planting is annually undertaken, but future development schemes will reflect the views of other partner organisations. To date a broad spectrum of native trees have been planted throughout different areas of the park and some of these new additions will form the basis of a tree trail being developed both by the Friends Of group and the council in 2020. The Friends Of group have apportioned some of the funding they received from the Co-op to develop the Tree Trail. It is envisaged that this document will also encompass our 'Memorial Tree Policy' and specify the range of trees the Parks Department will consider when being contacted by members of the public.



**'Friends Of' Gedling Country Park receiving funding from the Co-Op in 2019.**

## **Grounds, Buildings and Equipment**

With the children's play area now in place a maintenance schedule has been created to reflect works that will be undertaken, this will be reviewed on an annual basis. The construction of the visitor centre on the site has now been completed and a maintenance schedule has been created to reflect works both internally and externally which be reviewed on an annual basis. Car Park surfacing, along with pathways, signage and benches/tables will be maintained accordingly, in line with the Maintenance Plan (available during the field assessment). For a detailed description and breakdown of the maintenance of provisions at Gedling Country Park, please refer to the Park's Maintenance Plan. A very basic summary of regular works has been included below in Table 2A.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Regularity</b>	<b>Workers</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Litter Picking	Twice Weekly	PASC Operative/Rangers	Operations Manager
Carry out play park inspections and action remedial work as required	Weekly	ROSPA Trained Operatives	Operations Manager
Carry out site inspections	Monthly	PASC Supervisors	Service Manager
Remove/ prune any unwanted trees or shrubs growing from boundaries	Annually	PASC Operatives/ arborists	Operations Manager
Carry out an annual inspection of boundaries and access gateways and repair as required	Annually	PASC Operatives/Supervisors	Operations Manager/Service Manager
Manual weed control	As required	PASC Operatives	Operations Manager
Chemical weed control - Herbicide	Spot control to keep DDA compliant pathways clear and regulated eradication of Japanese Knotweed	Herbicide licensed PASC Operatives	Operations Manager

**Table 2A – Summary of Regular Maintenance Works at Gedling Country Park**

## Clean

Staff from the Parks and Street Care team including the Park Rangers maintain the grounds to a high standard, they undertake regular walkabouts of the grounds to ensure that the site is managed appropriately. The 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park assists full time staff with litter picking on a voluntary basis and regularly patrols the site with litter pickers. Inspection for cleanliness is in accordance with the Litter Act 1983 and Dog waste bins under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996. The park is litter picked and debris is removed, waste bins and Dog waste bins are emptied by grounds staff in accordance with the PASC Department guidelines, as detailed in the Landscape Quality Manual (See separate document available during the field assessment.)

Litter bins are emptied twice per week and litterpicking is undertaken at the same time, although with the friends of group carrying out litterpicking on a regular basis, this would equate to 4 litterpicks over a 7 day period.

Gedling Borough Council operates a No Dog Fouling Policy, with 'No Dog Fouling' signs posted throughout the park. The Neighbourhood Wardens regularly patrol the site and will enforce the policy when necessary. A large permanent banner is on the park to show our 'no dog fouling' stance. Recent campaigns have included the use of Council graffiti messages and glow in the dark signs to deter potential culprits.

Our Neighbourhood Wardens educate park users regarding dog fouling on parks by attending park events, visiting local schools and engaging with the public. They will take enforcement action if necessary and if reported by the public. CCTV is currently in place around the visitor centre and car parks, elsewhere on the park the Rangers, Volunteers and Neighbourhood Wardens all have presence, acting as a deterrent to dog fouling.

Following requests from dog walkers and following feedback from Neighbourhood Wardens, 7 new bins have been installed around the paths to deal with complaints of dog fouling. We believe that educating the public is the best way to avoid dog fouling in our parks and so the Neighbourhood Wardens will be attending future events on Gedling Country Park.

During 2018/2019 an executive decision was taken by the Council to introduce 'Dog Zones' to Gedling Country Park. Additional map boards informing the public of where a dog could be off a lead and markers where also positioned at strategic points around the park.

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Aims**

Gedling Borough Council is committed to Local Agenda 21 and constantly takes into account sustainability in its management of Gedling Country Park.

### **Objectives**

- To limit the use of Pesticides
- To endeavour to recycle waste material on site or locally and support Local Agenda 21
- To work within the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- To consider the planting or removal of tree's within the park considerate of Environmental and Biodiversity values
- To continue to encourage the utilisation of renewable energies within the park
- To work with on-site partners to maintain Bee Hives within enclosed Solar Farm
- To be considerate of sustainability throughout the design process of the desired Visitor Centre and to work within Gedling Borough Council's Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan

There is an Environmental Policy in use for the maintenance and management of Gedling Country Park which can be viewed on request. In addition to this, one of the key aims of the Aligned Core Strategy, which is being prepared in partnership with the other authorities within Greater Nottingham, is the delivery of sustainable development. This includes policies to provide sustainable patterns of development, ensure that development is constructed to a high sustainability standard and renewable energy schemes are permitted in appropriate locations. It also looks to ensure good access to parks and open space, reducing the need to travel. The Aligned Core Strategy has now been published. Further information can be found on the Gedling Borough Council website

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/planningbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/localdevelopmentframework/greaternottinghamalignedcorestrategy/>

## **Achieving the Objectives**

### Herbicides and Pesticides

The use of herbicides is strictly limited to maintaining the parks infrastructure and legal requirements, i.e. encroachment of pernicious weeds on to the DDA Compliant pathways and to control non-native invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed which is present on site.

### **Recycling**

Following Green Flag judges' comments recycling bins for public use have now been installed outside the Café. It is envisaged that future consideration may see other recycling bins installed as the park develops in the coming years.

### **Tree Planting and Thinning/Removal**

Introduction of new trees should have the following considerations:

- Native species, sourced locally
- Pollution Tolerance
- Climate change
- Water sustainability
- Value of habitat
- Increase use of native pest and disease resistance species

Working closely with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on tree removal, to improve habitats by:

- Leaving dead wood standing
- Creating log piles for habitats
- Natural seating-create outdoor classroom
- Erecting Bird/Bat boxes

Continue to work to the action plan to thin new plantations within the next three years, aiming to remove around 10-15% of trees.

### **Encouraging Renewable Energies**

Prior to Gedling Boroughs' ownership of the land, Anesco installed 23,000 solar panels in an enclosed area on the Eastern tip. The solar farm is managed by Anesco and encouraged by Gedling Borough Council, providing enough electricity to power approximately 1800 homes. In addition to the solar farm, a nearby methane extraction substation provides energy for a further 3600 homes. 'Alkane Energy' run the methane substation and provided the following statement "Coal Mine Methane (CMM) is currently trapped underground in the former Gedling colliery workings



Alkane has drilled 383m in to a roadway adjacent to the Gedling shaft in the High Hazel Seam in order to reach the methane gas. Methane is 21 times more detrimental to the atmosphere than Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The gas is extracted by vacuum pumps and delivered to the generating engine to produce electricity 24/7. The engine installed, generates 1.5MW per hour of electricity and feeds in to the National Grid via the ex-colliery sub-station.

### **Beehive Installation**

Gedling Borough Council's Parks Department and the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park initially, reached an agreement with the owners of the Solar Farm, Anesco, to house Beehives on the enclosed site in 2016. This however, proved unsuccessful and the beehives have now been relocated to a purpose built compound located near the Tatton Bee Garden and was paid for by funding secured by the 'Friends Of' group. It is envisaged that this facility maybe used in time to educate pupils from visiting schools.

### **Visitor Centre Design**

Work on the visitor centre began in October 2016 and the doors were opened to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The original designs were drawn up with students from Nottingham Trent University. The design and construction reflects the use of recycled materials and made sustainability a priority. The building makes use of water saving technology, solar panels and good insulation to be both economically and environmentally friendly.

### **Environmental and Biodiversity Values**

Urban greening is important to the environmental impact on the townscape; trees greatly improve the effects of:

- Carbon Omissions
- Poor air quality
- Air pollution
- Surface water run off
- Urban heat islands
- Noise pollution
- Animal and Invertebrate habitats

Government targets to improve biodiversity in green spaces as agreed at Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 to deal adequately with climatic changes such as flooding. Trees are known to contribute to the uptake of floodwater as a method of sustainable drainage systems.

## Other Sustainable Activities

Other sustainable activities carried out by Parks and Street Care include:

- Using Peat-free compost on all sites
- Sourcing limestone from reputable sources
- Recycling plant pots and other plastic containers
- Installation of recycling bin near to the play area

## Other Sustainable Activities (Continued)

- Use of recycled plastic materials forms part of the new Play area specifications
- All benches, tables and bins on site are of recycled plastic construction
- Installation of Water Fountain



Building upon the Council's commitments to become a Plastic Clever Council, all three Green Flag parks have now seen water fountains installed. This initiative outlines the commitment of the Council to phase out the sale of single use plastics from its facilities and to raise awareness of Kids against Plastics campaign brought about by local school children Amy and Ella Meek. It is also the intention of the council to phase out the use of single use plastic products starting with disposable cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all council buildings.

# BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE



# **BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE**

## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Aims**

Gedling Borough Council aims to increase the value of the heritage and enhance the biodiversity of Gedling Country Park.

Former colliery sites often show reminders of their mining heritage, through clear landscape features or mining buildings such as 'winding houses'. Although no buildings from the colliery remain on Gedling Country Park, it is Gedling Borough's aim to preserve its mining heritage and to remember those who worked on the site.

### **Objectives**

- Increase Biodiversity, encourage and enhance habitats to maximise wildlife value
- Work within Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Section 74)
- Maintain and enhance features of Mining History and develop features of renewable energy future.
- Continue to develop the Heritage Lottery Funded, Gedling Heritage Interpretation Project

### **Achieving the Objectives**

Gedling Borough Council will continue to work with local history groups, the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park, Anesco and other partners to preserve the industrial history of the site whilst working towards the enhancement of its greener future.

### **Wildlife and Habitat Management**

The Parks Department of Gedling Borough have continued to work within the various habitats on the Country Park since the opening in March 2015 with the assistance of the 'Friends of' Group.

In the summer of 2014, EMEC Ecology were contracted to undertake wildlife surveys on the Country Park and to produce a report to highlight suggested works to enhance biodiversity. The Environmental volunteer sessions utilise these suggestions with help from the 'Friends of' group.

Wildlife and habitat management will be set out in the action plan in line with the recommendations from EMEC Ecology, this can be found at the end of the Management Plan.

An agreement was recently reached with a local farmer to house a herd of Shorthorn Cattle on the park for grazing. Gedling Borough Council does not currently have the necessary machinery to cut and bale the grasslands, and following a first cut in September 2015, the 'Friends of' group, assisted PASC in raking up the cuttings before they were taken to a green waste recycling site.



**Shorthorn Cattle arriving on Gedling Country Park**

**September 2016.**

It is the aspiration of Gedling Borough Council and the Friends of Gedling Country Park to have the site registered as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and following much work this objective has now been completed and the park awarded its accreditation. Similarly, it is an objective of both the council and the 'Friends Of' group to make the site an Educational/Scientific resource and as such, Nottingham Trent University are one of a number of key partners undertaking valuable ecological surveying amongst other tasks. The council has also committed to providing opportunities for students to undertake work placements at the Country Park and for lecturers to utilise the facilities for student field trips.

Other partners doing Scientific Research/Evaluation work on the site include the British Trust for Ornithology and Nottinghamshire Bat Group. To date BTO volunteers have begun 'Mist Netting' on the site (November 2019) and will provide data of their work in future years. Moth and Butterfly Conservation surveys have also continued to be undertaken by 'Friends Of' volunteers and NTU students.

Recent surveys outlining the protected/notable Bird Species recorded on site can be seen in the Table 2A overleaf. Full surveys are available during the Field Assessment or by request.

Common Name	WCA 1981 <sup>3</sup>	UK BAP	Notts BAP	RSPB Red List	RSPB Amber List
Bar-tailed Godwit		X			X
Barn Swallow		X			X
Blackcap		X			
Common chiffchaff		X			
Common Kestrel		X			X
Common Snipe		X			X
Cuckoo					X
Eurasian woodcock		X			X
Fieldfare	X	X			X
Garden Warbler		X			
Goldfinch		X			
Grasshopper warbler		X		X	
Greenfinch		X			
Green woodpecker		X		X	X
Grey partridge		X			
Grey wagtail		X			X
Greylag goose		X			X
House martin		X			X
Lapwing		X			X
Lesser black-backed gull		X			X
Meadow pipit					X
Mute swan					X
Pied wagtail		X			
Redwing	X	X			X
Ring ouzel		X		X	
Sand martin					X
Short-eared owl					X
Sky lark		X		X	
Stonechat		X			X
Whitethroat					
Willow tit		X		X	
Willow warbler		X			X
Yellow wagtail		X			X

**Table 2A – Protected Bird Species sighted on Gedling Country Park**

The 'Friends Of' Gedling Country Park, along with students from Nottingham Trent University continue to collect data of the Flora and Fauna of GCP. Further Studies/Surveys and Observations are required to provide more accurate indications of the state of Environmental Health of the Park or of any decline or increase of wildlife. Some indications of both decline and increase of various species are showing but no indications, as yet, to the causes, but generally things are looking OK.

<b>Brief Outline Survey Data (2015-2020)</b>	
<b>Sight Specific Recordings</b>	<b>Important Species/Notes/Comments</b>
27 Species of Butterfly identified and varying numbers every year.  Three species of County Importance.	Dingy Skipper (Southern Boundary) Pearl-bordered Fritillary (Southern Boundary) Green Hairstreak (Southern Facing Slopes) Brimstone (Northern Woodland Hedgerows)
72 Species of Moths, 10 of these are of ' <b>Conservation Concern</b> '	Angle striped Sallow
10 Species of Grasshopper/Crickets	Further Surveys Required
3 Species of Amphibians are found of GCP of, which, all of them are ' <b>Conservation Concern</b> '	Further Surveys Required
1 Species of Reptile listed as ' <b>Conservation Concern</b> ' in Nottinghamshire	Further Surveys Required
Spiders and their relatives are poorly recorded on GCP. One species, False Scorpion is a species of ' <b>Conservation Concern</b> '	Further Surveys Required
19 Species of Dragonflies and Damselflies. Four species are of ' <b>Conservation Concern</b> ' of which, two are of National importance.	It is suspected that more species are present on GCP and further observations are required.
Seventeen species of Mammals excluding Bats. Nine species are of ' <b>Conservation Concern</b> ' in Nottinghamshire	Negotiations in progress to increase numbers of Hedgehogs on GCP (2020/2021).
115 Birds Species found either living or visiting site. 29 are of ' <b>Conservation Concern</b> ', 7 being National Red listed and 18 Amber listed.	Records are being analysed to indicate the seasonality of visitors. Ringing of Birds by BTO commenced 2019.

**Table 2A – Sight Specific Flora and Fauna Surveys Data (2015-2020)**

## **New Zealand Pygmy Weed**

This invasive weed is present in every water body on the site and in some areas is in high quantities. New Zealand Pygmy Weed is an invasive none native species which is spread easily and is notoriously difficult to eradicate. As a department, we have decided that we will have to work around the Pygmy Weed and manage it as well as possible.

As it is an offence to knowingly spread the weed we will be keeping all of the removed weed on site to decompose. Any equipment used during its removal will be cleaned using a glyphosate solution and thoroughly cleaned with hot water 4 days later to enable the glyphosate time to kill the weed. With this in mind the works on the pond areas will continue as prescribed by EMEC Ecology in the Action Plan. Specialised contractors Aquatic Solutions have recently, undertaken work on the Central Lagoon and the contaminated waste will be left to rot-down in situ at the side of the lagoon.



**Reed removal using amphibious equipment on the Central Lagoon**

**November 2019 – Photograph courtesy of Philip Orme**



## Heritage

Gedling Borough Council and the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park wish to commemorate the mining heritage of the site wherever possible. The first view on entrance to the park is the mining carts donated by Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Ltd. Having features on site which remind people of the mining heritage, we believe is very important for the site.

The Memorial Garden being developed on the park currently has in place: reclaimed Pit-Support hoops from the colliery, pathways, knee-high rail fencing and is in the advanced stages of being planted with native shrubs and trees. A funding application put together by the Friends of Group and Gedling Borough Council Arts Department successfully raised in excess of £18,000 for an inspirational sculpture that reflects the parks past.



**Memorial Garden Sculpture installed in December 2017.**

**Nottinghamshire County Council funded and created by local artist Richard Janes.**

Eleven interpretation boards have now been installed on the site. These include information on; Pond Ecology, Green Energies, Transformation from Pit to Park, Butterfly and Wild Flower Meadow information. Also as part of the Gedling Heritage Interpretation Project that was funded by the Heritage Lottery covering the Fauna, Flora, Colliery and Railway, pus a Compass Panel have now been located around the park.

This award of £75,000 of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has also seen the delivery of two mosaics and a mural in the Café 1899. Plus a 'Short Film' being played on the monitors in the Café. Upon completion of the project, the visitor centre will serve as the main body of educational material on the park's history and current management.



**Heritage Brought Alive Project - Mosaics installed in Café 1899 March 2019**



**Café 1899 Mural – Gedling Heritage Interpretation Project**

Future aspirations as outlined in the 10 Year Aspirational Plan will also see a three million pound Gedling Heritage Museum and Education Centre built by 2023/2024. The final details of how this will be funded will be available at the Field Assessment when Elected Members and the Senior Leadership Team agree on a final draft of this document.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **Aims and Objectives**

#### **Aims**

Since the opening of Gedling Country Park in March 2015, visitors have commented on how much of a community asset the ex-mine has become. Every visitor has a valid say on the future developments of the park and need to be involved along the way.

People that use or live in close proximity to parks and green spaces are known to have improvements to their mental and physical health. Recent Park Surveys revealed the park attracts a large number of dog walkers, cyclists, walkers and families.

The parks opening event in March 2015 was expected to be the largest draw for visitors, and although no exact visitor count was taken, it was estimated to be around 3000 throughout the day.



**Opening Event March 2015**

Events continue to be held on Gedling Country Park, with Gedling Borough's Parks Department hosting Environmental sessions, to the 'Friends of' Group hosting Bird and Butterfly Walks, Orienteering events, Dawn Walks and family fun days. During 2019 Nottingham Orienteering group also produced a scaled map of an orienteering course for the public to download and also launched a number of events throughout the summer.

Gedling Borough Council and the 'Friends of' group aim to promote the park to the local and wider community, through an extensive events programme. See Appendix 3 for 2020 programme. Community events within Gedling Country Park are also published on Gedling Borough Councils' website and the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park webpage.

It is our aim to give wider consultation to the public who use the space. This is discussed further under the Marketing Criteria.

## **Objectives**

- To increase the number of people who use our parks. Agenda 21 encourages voluntary and community groups to keep park use from declining.
- Increase number of events as a marketing tool
- Give wider consultation in future development within the park
- Work with businesses and volunteers
- Work with the 'Friends of' group to provide the best possible interpretation for the park's assets, with them taking an active role in the future writing of the Management Plan.
- Continue to work with local schools and community groups
- Work as a partner to the 'Friends of' group and other user groups to assist in fund raising

## **Achieving the objectives**

Gedling Borough Council's Parks Department regularly meet with Gedling Country Parks 'Friends of' group to inform and exchange ideas, we continue to identify new user groups, as well as promoting the park and its facilities within the Council and externally via the new marketing plan.

As a result of listening to the needs of the parks users, a new children's play area was installed and opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. Along with £150k of capital funding the friends group and Gedling Borough Council were successful in being awarded a further £50k of WREN funding so we could provide a comprehensive adventurous play facility for children up to 16 years. This new facility has already attracted many families to the park, who are very grateful for its addition.

The new Gedling Country Park Café, Café 1899 opened on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The licenced café which is run as a joint business between Gedling Borough Council and Nottingham City Council costing a total of £1.5 Million. Providing a place for users of the park to take a break and take on refreshments has proved very popular and we intend to encourage its growth into the future.

The new marketing plan should bring results within the next five years. It will be integral in informing current users and encouraging new users about the value of the park as a recreational and educational resource on their doorstep.

Consultation at present is largely through the elected members, local schools and the 'Friends of' group. Their views reflect the original aims of Gedling Country Park being an educational resource and providing relaxation and recreation for all the people of Gedling and of the wider community. Although public opinion can also be gaged by posts on social media.

Gedling Borough Council and the Friends Of group have continued to attract volunteers from various local corporate businesses and obviously, through promoting volunteer opportunities for the public to assist in environmental projects. Additionally, the Service Level Agreement (2019) between the Probation Services 'Pay Back' scheme and Gedling Borough Council have also provided additional hands to tackle environmental issues like scrub clearance on grassland meadows.

Gedling Borough Council has previously worked with local artists to provide programmes in our parks such as 'Art in the Park' based at Arnot Hill Park. Plans are underway for similar projects to be undertaken at Gedling Country Park, therefore we enlisted the help of Nottingham City Arts to undertake community consultation to find out what art projects the public would be interested in seeing at the park, including the possibility of tree sculptures. Consultation was also carried out at the 'Friends groups' 'Open Day' in November 2015 to provide further support for the ideas and concepts. The full report has now been completed and is available as a separate document. The recommendations from which have been incorporated into the action plan.

The 'Friends Of' Gedling Country Park are a huge asset to the park and their support on the park has been consistent since it opened. The Friends Of group arrange volunteer sessions and plan projects alongside the Gedling Borough Council parks team. Future aspirations for the park are as follows:

- Tree Trail (2020)
- Sand Martin Nest (2021)
- Glades Boardwalk (Subject to Funding)
- Pond Dipping Tanks (Subject to Funding)
- Development of a people friendly recording system to be developed to engage the public in identifying and monitoring species on the park (2020/2021)
- A guidebook on GCP Bees to be developed (2020/2021)

Many of these projects are reliant of securing external funding and to date the Friends Of group have been very successful in raising capital funding from these sources. This being said the Councils Parks Department continue to support the group wherever possible with additional funding to help complete projects.

#### **Recent Volunteer work and initiatives :**

- The Friends Of group continue to help maintain many habitats within the park and have been instrumental in clearing invasive scrub from the area occupied by the Dingy Skipper and other butterflies.
- Clearing reeds and bulrushes from the central and lower lagoon to create an open water area.
- Creating living willow bird hides near the central lagoons
- Supporting the Rangers in a Community Event to build Bird Boxes at February half-term.
- Planting trees to create a Native Tree Trail
- Developing an Educational Copse
- Increasing the availability of Educational Material on site by introducing a Nature trail Booklet.
- Assisting young people in gaining their Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- Developing links with both voluntary organisations and commercial partners to undertake environmental tasks.
- Raised funding for Environmental Projects like the Bee Compound
- Established a link with a local Hedgehog Rescue to release injured hedgehogs on the Country Park in 2020.
- Supported the Rangers in providing practical opportunities for students from Nottingham Trent University.

### **Surveys Spring 2018 to 2020:**

- The group have continued to undertake survey work to enable comparative studies to be made E.g. Butterflies, Dragonflies, Moths, Grassland, Mammals and Birds
- Supported the first Nottingham Trent University project to study the Macro-aquatic Invertebrates within the Parks water bodies. A survey of the vegetation will be included as well as possibly Fish and Amphibians.
- Instigated BTO Volunteers in Ringing Birds on the park in 2019.

### **Other events planned by the Friends of Gedling Country Park:**

- Beekeeping demonstrations to begin 2020
- Willow weaving demonstrations and classes within the woodland glades
- Volunteer days – Alternate Sundays and Tuesdays with Rangers
- Park-Run, a volunteer lead organised running group hold a weekly 5km run on the site with the assistance of the friends of Gedling Country Park. Currently around 200 individuals turn up to this event including walkers and runners.



# MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION



# **MARKETING**

## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Aims**

Gedling Borough Council has pride in its parks and in particular the opening of Gedling Country Park, it is our aim to work closely in partnership with the 'Friends of' group to promote the park. Gedling Country Park has already had regional promotion through the TV news and newspapers and it is our aim to now carry on publicising our park, as with others, on events posters, our website, local papers, local radio, social media and our contacts magazine which goes out to all Gedling Borough Council Residents.

As a result of updating our marketing plan (Appendix 3) and following the comments of Green Flag Judges on our other parks, we have surveyed the wider communities who use our parks, including recently, Gedling Country Park. We have developed a postcard sized user satisfaction survey card with FREEPOST return mailing. We aim to make them accessible to the public who attend events within our parks. A user satisfaction survey is also available for completion on the Gedling Borough Council website.

We aim to carry out 'Park Surveys' face to face yearly with the assistance of the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park and Gedling Borough Council staff to obtain visitor numbers and user satisfaction information. The information gained can be used to provide base data for the marketing plan, ensuring we are continually striving to meet the needs of the wider community the park serves.

### **Objectives**

- To work in partnership with the groups that use our parks
- To promote events to the local and wider community
- Liaise with the Communications Officer towards the review of the Marketing Plan/Strategy for service
- Head of Parks to decide on a baseline for performance indicators (parks satisfaction)
- Ensure that any current displayed information is of the highest quality, on and off site

### **Achieving the objectives**

Although the status of the park and what it offers does guide the nature and content of events, we are working hard on promoting our events to the local and wider community through Council marketing material, press releases and photo opportunities to the local media.



**Gedling Country Park 'Friends of' Group recruitment stall  
at the park opening event in March 2015.**

Gedling Borough Council's website lists details about our parks, with an updated specific page relating to Gedling Country Park. The page also allows easy access to the 'Friends of' group website which publishes park events in a calendar: <http://www.gedling.gov.uk/leisure/parksopenspaces/gedlingcountrypark/>

A new leaflet for Gedling Country Park will soon be designed and will be available both from a number of Council buildings (Bowls Pavilion, Civic Centre and Jubilee House) and will also be distributed by Nottinghamshire County Council to local libraries amongst others. This new leaflet will also go out in school packs and will be available to both view and download from Gedling Borough Council's website.

Details of developments and forthcoming events go into the 'Contacts' Magazine, which is distributed to households in Gedling Borough and is also available to download on-line, see link below:

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/aboutus/newspublications/contactsmagazine>

Employment news bulletins on the intranet and paper copies are distributed to all GBC staff.

Posters detailing information about events in the park are placed on the notice board adjacent to the car park on Spring Lane.

The Council is committed to ensure that market research is carried out in a structured manner, to give measurable results of success. In this way, resources, even if limited, can be targeted to give best value to the community and the Authority.

The Park has featured in a number of positive News articles in the local press. Most recently seen in the article below, taken from the Notts TV who covered the opening of the £1.5 Million Visitor Centre

<https://nottstv.com/1-5-million-visitor-centre-cafe-opens-gedling-country-park/>

## £1.5 million visitor centre and cafe opens at Gedling Country Park

By **Jamie Barlow** - Jun 12, 2017



*Video: The £1.5 million development opened today.*

A £1.5 million visitor centre has opened at a former Nottingham pit site which has been transformed into a country park.

## **FUTURE CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

Local Government continues to bear the brunt of cuts to public spending, which will continue in 2018 and beyond. What was scheduled to be an extremely challenging 28% reduction in council funding will now exceed 33% and, for some go higher

This is taking place against the backdrop of a difficult economic environment and increased demand for our services. We will be forced to make some very difficult decisions. It is inevitable these cuts will mean we have to offer less as a council parks department, what we do offer will be done well, but we will no longer be able to provide all of the services we currently do.

A rolling programme of new and replacement planting has begun to take shape this year, with emphasis on open areas and plantations.

Recruitment to the 'Friends of' group who are involved in park life, helping with the running of events in the park and the upkeep of the site, has been a great success. Advertisements for the group remain on the Gedling Borough Council website and on the 'Friends of' website. The group currently has around 200 paid members, although during volunteer sessions, we are seeing an average attendance of around 10. We will continue to work alongside the 'Friends of' group to advertise volunteer sessions and encourage the 'Friends of' members to take an active role in managing the park.

### **Summary of Maintenance Plan**

The Landscape Quality Manual is available as a separate document from the Parks Department. This document outlines the sites current maintenance practices for the grounds hard and soft features, including guidance notes of practices carried out on site, frequency of actions; all within Health and Safety procedures and COSHH regulations.

The grounds maintenance costs budgeted for 2020/21 is approximately £50,000. Any extra budget that is needed for this year will be obtained by making a capital bid. Detailed revenue maintenance costs are available on request and during the field assessment.

# MANAGEMENT



# **MANAGEMENT**

## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Aims**

#### **The vision for Gedling Country Park is:**

'To enhance and develop Gedling Country Park for the enjoyment of its visitors whilst promoting its heritage, wildlife, recyclable energies and recreational values, to ensure the park becomes a new destination Country Park for Nottinghamshire'.

### **Objectives**

- To provide a welcoming park with excellent access for all.
- To create a clean and safe park environment.
- To maintain the park to BS7370 taking care to ensure its history is preserved.
- To adhere to good environmental and biodiversity values when carrying out operations in the park.
- To increase the number of people who use the park and encourage more community groups to use the park.
- To promote parks events to the local and wider community and to promote the park as a first class outdoor education facility.

### **Partners**

We promote partnership working, which is vital to the development of the park. Our partners include:

- Gedling Country Park 'Friends of' group
- Parks and Street Care Services
- Leisure Services
- Technical Services
- Facilities Management Services
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Local Schools and Youth Service
- Gedling Play Partnership
- Gedling Play Forum
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Gedling Homes
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Anesco
- Parkrun
- Nottingham City Arts

## **Partners (Continued)**

- British Orienteering
- EMEC Ecology
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- RSPB

## **Policies**

- Gedling Heritage Strategy
- Gedling Borough Aligned Core Strategy 2012-2028
- South Nottingham Community Safety Strategy 2013 onwards
- Gedling Borough Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2017 (Updates pending)
- The Sustainable Communities Strategy Vision 2026 and its 5 Priorities
- Animal Welfare Policy (2014)
- Gedling Borough Council Parks Bylaws
- Gedling Borough Council – Local Planning Documents Part 2 Local Plan
- Gedling Borough Council – New Housing Development, Supplementary Planning Guidance for Open Space Provision
- Sustainability Appraisal Publication Draft – Appendix G: Appraisal of Development Management Policies
- The Gedling Plan 2019
- Gedling Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan 2018
- Gedling Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2020-2025
- Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022
- Active Notts – Getting Active together 2017-2019

## **Achieving the Objectives**

### **Management of the Park**

Responsibility for the overall management of Gedling Country Park is principally with Gedling Borough Council under the direction of the Service Manager for Parks and Street Care. They are assisted by their teams which include the Parks Development Officer, Urban Park Rangers, Parks and Street Care Operations Manager for Street Cleansing and Ground Maintenance Operatives.

Gedling Country Park is already popular with visitors and well used by the people of Gedling and the wider community. Currently the site does not suffer from targeted vandalism, though from time to time there are inevitably signs of vandalism, which are dealt with promptly by grounds staff.

It is Gedling Borough Councils expectation that by 2020, the park will be a fantastic resource for environmental education, from children as young as pre-school up to and including University students.



A number of documents feed into the Management Plan including Gedling Country Park Ecology, Landscape and Management Plan 2017-2021, an Access Audit (2019/2020), Environmental Policy, and the new Gedling County Park Long-term Aspirational Plan (2020-2030) which will direct the future development of the park. Whilst the latter is yet to be formally approved by the Senior Leadership Team and Elected Members, many of the recommendations that are proposed within this document will become inherent within the 'Action Plan' from 2020 onwards. These documents are available for viewing during the field assessment.

As the park has only been open to the public since March 2015, we are constantly receiving and monitoring user feedback, so far this feedback has assisted us in installing more bins around the site and to extend the car parking area to allow for more spaces. The feedback on site has also enabled us to gain funding for a new play area in 2016 and a new visitor centre in 2017.

Our response to the public views on the site is a great example of the Council's commitment to the park, and this feedback will be monitored into the future to expand the knowledge needs and wishes of members of the public.

### **Resources for the Park**

The costs associated with park management come from the budgets held by Gedling Borough Council. Gedling Country Park capital budgets for specialist areas such as children's play area equipment and young people's equipment wherever possible will be part funded from outside grant schemes such as FCC Communities, to be able to provide the very highest standard. An application for £50,000 from FCC Communities (formerly WREN) was successful in part-funding the installation of a new play area. Additionally, £120,000 funding for the Viewing Platforms was secured from the Rural Payments Agency.

### **Park User Feedback**

(See Marketing Page Appendix 3)

Based upon a recent Satisfaction Survey of the Borough's residents, 74% of those sampled stated they were either 'Satisfied' or 'Very Satisfied' with Gedling Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces. There was very limited negative feedback; however the Comments/complaints were mainly related to Car Parking and on-site Toilets; both of which have now been addressed. Feedback will be monitored into the future to highlight any new or reoccurring issues.

Obviously we are very happy with these results, however, we continue to identify areas that users are dissatisfied with and work towards improving their overall experience of these areas specifically and our Parks and Green Spaces overall. Park user data collated from surveys undertaken in our parks in 2019, suggest that 99% of users interviewed were either 'Satisfied' or very Satisfied' with parks in the borough.

## ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

The analysis and assessment assists managers to take the most appropriate actions over a set period. This should achieve a balance between the needs of the site, the community, the Corporate Strategy and resources available. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis is a well-used management technique, which clarifies the areas causing concern and those that are delivering successfully.

The following analysis focuses on the criteria for the Green Flag Award Scheme. This is used above in Management Aims. The criteria are typical of almost all park sites.

### SWOT ANALYSIS

<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	
Strengths	Excellent vehicle and pedestrian access; convenient disabled spaces; two main signs in place; the general aspect at entrances is welcoming; little evidence of litter; most pathways internally are accessible to everyone; staff commitment and thriving 'Friends of' group; marketing strategy
Weaknesses	Semi-permanent staff presence on site; grounds maintenance standards not consistent; pedestrians and vehicles mix on one pathway. Insufficient car-parking space.
Opportunities	Further funding to raise ground maintenance standard; 'Friends of' group applied for funding regards to play area and memorial garden; more schools to be approached; market park to wider community. New car-park extension & outdoor seating area.
Threats	Lack of resources to sustain increase in staffing; 'Friends of' group may diminish in numbers; lack of available funding for signage and future interpretation.

<b>Healthy Safe and Secure</b>	
Strengths	Well defined paths; regular surveys of paths; risk assessments up to date; improving grounds maintenance; interested 'Friends of' group. CCTV in car park and visitor café.
Weaknesses	Contact information not published at all accesses; grounds maintenance still improving; no visitor information point; pedestrians and vehicles sharing some stretches of roadway
Opportunities	Increase 'official' presence on site, keeping notice board up to date; increase the number of events; develop accompanied school visits; increase information at accesses

Threats	Standard of grounds and general maintenance; 'Friends of' group may diminish. Incidents of ASB.
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<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>	
Strengths	Programme of grounds maintenance in place. Condition surveys of park carried out annually; grounds maintenance specified to BS 7370; commitment from staff and 'Friends of' group. Award winning destination park.
Weaknesses	Reduced budgets leading to reduction in maintenance hours and resources. Staff training budget reduced.
Opportunities	To ensure the park is a well-maintained and clean site; opportunities to work with local schools and other visitors; possible partnerships with local youth groups/programmes to help carry out environmental maintenance tasks.
Threats	Reduction in budgets and lack of resources to maintain site to meet quality standards. Loss of Green Flag status.

<b>Sustainability</b>	
Strengths	Plastic Clever Council. Promotion of the environmental statement and policy; 'Friends of' group and operative staff involved with discussions of draft management plan. Recycling promoted both with the café and park itself, especially around the visitor café area. Timber obtained from sustainable sources. Peat free alternatives used where possible. Solar Farm. Water fountain installation. Re-use of wood chip from woodland.
Weaknesses	Potential for recycling on site still to be fully investigated; lack of promotional material for public.
Opportunities	To manage the park and its facilities via the management plan; to research further 'green' funding for education and health; further involve other officers, operatives/'Friends of' group members and other volunteers in 'greening' the environment; Promote appropriate energy events; produce info for public;
Threats	Lack of officer/operative time to progress and complete practical objectives

<b>Conservation and Heritage</b>	
Strengths	Area heritage including former colliery status which is promoted alongside other points of heritage interest via a wall mural in the visitor cafe; easy access for the public; it is an attractive site; good range of plant conservation habitats on site; detailed surveys for species of flora and fauna to evidence this.

Weaknesses	Staff presence not permanent; more interpretation needed for visitors
Opportunities	To promote the sites special qualities particularly to habitat variation and industrial heritage; potential to be an excellent resource for schools and other groups; potential to create an information point, perhaps in the future planned interpretation centre;
Threats	Lack of resources to allow such ambitious developments.

<b>Community Involvement</b>	
Strengths	'Friends of' group meet monthly with officers; council funded Ranger posts; marketing plan outlined; park focussed events planned; local volunteer groups utilised
Weaknesses	Few, if any young people/disabled involved in the 'Friends of' group; need more comprehensive park users numbers and visitor data to use as a baseline for marketing plan
Opportunities	Promote park to new 'Friends of' group members, younger people and minority groups; set up working party to include the Friends, monitor progress of the plan through the Friends, promote as the valuable asset it is, to the local people and business community
Threats	Lack of staff to support all meetings and events; lack of available funding sources to promote the park and attract new and varied interest

<b>Marketing</b>	
Strengths	The marketing plan has been updated; the Council's website continually improves; the site is very much a part of local history and a key environmental asset; opportunity through commitment to retaining the Green Flag award promotion via social media.
Weaknesses	Lack of funding and support which makes conducting user survey and counts of visitor numbers not possible due to staff resourcing issues; valuable opportunity may thus been missed
Opportunities	Ensure a Park advertising budget is established for promotion of the park; to include the park in advertising about events, at national, regional and local level including on Green Flag website; staff to talk to visitors at every opportunity about what events are on in the park; promote the uniqueness of the site; promote the site to as many new and diverse groups as possible
Threats	Lack of staff and funding to carry out the necessary research and promotions; budget concern for extra wear and tear on the site as a result of increased events and use; failure to retain Green Flag status

<b>Management</b>	
Strengths	Commitment of staff to achieve objectives in plan and to maintain the newly refurbished areas; work on the ground is beginning to relate to the changing needs; prioritise limiting budgets for maintenance; Green Flag status a priority; regular meetings held, including all involved parties
Weaknesses	It takes time for a new or different regime to establish and prove itself; past performance in some areas has to be overcome and not allowed to influence the future or staff morale; loss of staff due to economic climate
Opportunities	Achieving a Green Flag award; access any appropriate further capital or revenue funding; increase staffing levels; increase events in the park; to increase visitor numbers and income; to comprehensively promote the site to the people of Gedling and the wider community
Threats	Lack of commitment, staff time, and material resources to forward objectives as planned

## FINANCE AND RESOURCES

### Revenue Funding

The Revenue funding budget for the park's grounds maintenance for 2020/21 is £50k

### Staffing Structure

The parks development function is controlled by the Parks and Street Care Services section. The manager is assisted by the Parks Development Officer and 2 full time Urban Park Rangers.

Parks and Street Care control the Grounds Maintenance function. A dedicated team has been established to work with the Park Ranger Service.

### Work Programme

The grounds maintenance specification and work programme are available from Parks and Street Care Services and will be available during the Field Assessment or on request



## MONITORING AND REVIEW

An annual review of the Management Plan and, in particular, its Action Plan will take place each September. This review will contain an evaluation of the operational progress against set targets. The results of this review will inform the Parks and Street Care Service Plan. The process allows an opportunity to assess current revenue and capital funding.

The exercise allows additions to the normal scheduled work program and allows for the early alteration of the Urban Park Ranger's and 'Friends of' group work programs.

Although the plan will be reviewed annually, it will be comprehensively revised every 3 years to ensure its content remains relevant and up to date with the Council's policies, vision and objectives.



**Gedling Country Park opening day with very proud Council Staff and Members**

## **PLANS FOR 2020**

As outlined in the parks 'Action Plan' it is the intention to continue to develop and improve the park, and as such, provide opportunities to as many local Schools, volunteers and patrons to access the site. This will be implemented with help from the 'Friends of' group, Local and Corporate Volunteers, the NHS Social and Therapeutic Inclusion Team amongst others.

Significantly we will undertake a 'Tree Condition' survey on the park to fit in line with the Action Plan and to sit alongside similar reports from other parks in the Borough. We plan to improve the content of the parks Web-page and consult with partners on the future developments of the park in the coming years. The Gedling Country Park Long-term Aspirational Plan (2020-2030) will shape future developments.

A new events programme will be put together in January 2020 and publicised through the Communications Department and the Councils website will keep the public informed. Events are likely to include 'Butterfly Walks', 'Orienteering Days', Environmental Days and 'Family Fun Days'.

Major developments for 2020/21 will see Spring Lane Car Park extended to two-hundred spaces with an additional fifty spaces available at Lambley Lane. Landscape Viewing platforms constructed to the north and south of the solar panel farm and an outdoor seating area built outside the Café.

**Suggestions or comments regarding Gedling Country Park events, facilities and future developments would be most welcome and may be forwarded to:**

**Gedling Borough Council  
Parks and Street Care Department  
Direct Services  
Jubilee House  
Nottingham Road  
Daybrook  
Nottingham  
NG5 6LU**

**Parks and Open Spaces Development Team:**

**Mr Melvyn Cryer**

**Parks and Street Care Manager**      [melvyn.cryer@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:melvyn.cryer@gedling.gov.uk)

**Mrs Jane Richardson**

**Parks Development Officer**      [jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk)



## Gedling Country Park Action Plan 2015-2020

Aim 1: To provide an Accessible and Welcoming Park										
Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Improve parks signage	Carry out complete audit of parks signage and action results. Investigate possibilities of providing some braille interpretation panels on the park	PASC Manager		✓	✓	○			Asset Management bid	Braille panels still being researched. Several new Interpretation Panels now installed 2019.
Ensure equal access for all	Commission a new DDA Compliant Audit and work with users of the park and identify any new requirements	Parks Development officer		○	✓				Existing revenue budgets, Officer time	Audit to be finalised by December 2019. Work as begun to address access issues from neighbouring developments and DDA Compliant Gates fitted 2019/20 to one of these entrances.

**Aim 1: To provide an Accessible and Welcoming Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Ensure access points to the park are maintained	Consult relative departments to provide a replacement entrance pathway from the housing development being undertaken close to the site	PASC Manager Parks Development Officer Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○			Officer time	Meetings have been regularly held with the developers and solid plans are now being progressed.
To develop the Country Park into a major local visitor attraction	Install Viewing Platforms and Outdoor Seating Area outside Café	PASC Manager Parks Development Officer	■	○	✓				Officer Time Capital Budgets	Funding secured and contractors appointed to begin construction on viewing platforms January 2020. Outdoor Seating Area construction to begin in spring 2020.

## Aim 1: To provide an Accessible and Welcoming Park

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Monitor needs for Car Parking based upon feedback from users.	Construct additional Car Parking spaces near Spring Lane entrance.	PASC Manager Parks Development Officer	■	○	✓				Officer Time Capital Budgets	Funding secured and contractors began construction November 2019.  Additional eighty spaces being created due to volume of demand.
Explore funding opportunities to develop a Heritage Museum and Education Centre at Gedling country Park adjacent to the café.	To develop another major visitor attraction within the country park.	PASC Manager Parks Development Officer		■	○				Officer Time Capital and Revenue Budgets	Elected Members are keen to deliver this project and have included this in the Aspirational Plan for delivery by 2023/2024.

**Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Ensure the park boundaries are in good condition, regularly assessed and actioned	Repair any damaged fences. Schedule surveys	PASC Development officer	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Officer time	Inspections are currently undertaken monthly and issues resolved
Ensure the parks' paths, roadways and car park surfaces are in good condition. No slip trip or fall hazards	Continually review pedestrian safety in the park. Prune shrubs to allow for good visibility	PASC Development officer Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Officer time	Inspections are currently undertaken monthly and issues resolved.
Ensure the park is safe and secure	Regular Neighbourhood Warden, Police Community Support Officers and Ranger patrols in the park	Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing staffing resources	Park Rangers now based within the park during the week.

**Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Prevent ASB	All acts of ASB are monitored, discussed and actioned	Community Safety Manager	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Officer time	
Inspect all tree stocks to ensure they do not present a current or future hazard	Visual Inspections (In House) are undertaken quarterly throughout the year	PASC Manager and Parks Development officer	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Visual inspections are been undertaken and next Condition Survey to be carried out in spring 2020.
Ensure requirement of the HSAW Act 1974 are adhered to during all parks operations and activities	Regular staff toolbox talks with re safety issues and formal health and safety training. Risk and COSHH assessments of all operations and activities are carried out.	PASC Manager	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Officer time	Friends of group activities are also Risk Assessed and the Assessments passed on to a council representative

**Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Improve parks drainage	Carry out repairs to identify damaged or blocked drains	Technical Officer	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	
Ensure lagoon boundary railings are safe and secure	Carry out repairs to identify footings that are exposed and repair	Technical Officer	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Boundaries to be re-evaluated on completion of the GAR works
	Investigate the possibilities of installing mesh fence around the lagoons to prevent dog access			✓	✓	○			Existing revenue budgets	Conduct investigation alongside the GAR Route construction

**Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Promote use of park for commercial fitness initiatives and or other entrepreneurial businesses	Work with businesses to develop park use for Boot Camp training exercise classes	Parks Development Officer	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Officer time for administration	
Provide facilities and activities that encourage the pursuit of a healthy life style	Encourage fitness groups to use the site such as 'Park Run' and the ramblers association. Explore avenues of Council led activities	Exercise promotion Officer from Leisure Services Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Officer time	Park Run is a huge success on the park and many other walking groups use the area throughout the week. Orienteering is also promoted on the park by means of a dedicated map.

**Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Monitor the stability of the pit tips	Arrange regular pit tip inspections to monitor the stability of the ground and methane levels	Notts County Council,  PASC Service Manager	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets,  Officer Time	
Ensure suitable wheelchair access into park.	Re-Develop access to remove stiles and replace with suitable gates	PASC Department	✓	✓					Existing revenue budgets	DDA Complaint Access to direct any other issues, but two wheelchair/ disability gates now installed from new housing developments.



### Aim 3: To provide a well maintained and clean park

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Provide a clean and well maintained park environment	Carry out weekly inspection of the park by onsite staff and immediate response to litter/vandalism	Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Officer time	Extra Park Ranger presence is now assisting this further
Empty and clean litterbins	Empty and clean bins on a daily basis	PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets	
Provide clean and well maintained benches and seats	Audit all benches and seats in the park, Implement a rolling programme of maintenance	PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets Officer time	Memorial plaques now allowed on benches, revenue is used for their maintenance.
Provide a well maintained park environment	Grounds maintenance to be carried out to BS7370 and in accordance with the Landscape quality manual and operational procedures	PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Officer time	

### Aim 3: To provide a well maintained and clean park

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Inform public of 'Emergency contact' numbers	Provide contact numbers to report litter, ASB, Crime and graffiti and any other concerns for the users of the park in the parks notice board. Including out of hours numbers	Public, PASC & Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Emergency contact numbers are up in the notice boards
Minimise the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery	Explore avenues of recycling bins on site for visitors. Continue to utilise cattle grazing on the park.	Public, PASC & Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Recycling bin installed outside Café.
Incorporate wider Tree Management plan to Gedling Country Park	Continue to develop the Council-wide 'Tree Management Plan' to outline future maintenance requirements and recommendations	PASC Service Manager Parks Development Officer Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○			Existing revenue budgets	Develop dedicated Woodland Management Plan with assistance of partner organisations.

**Aim 4: To enhance the sustainability of the site**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Increase Ecological value of the park	Identify areas within the park for wildflower meadow habitat creation and create more bare earth scrapes	Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Some new areas have been identified, including areas near the Bee Garden to create additional meadow areas in 2020.
Develop Tree Woodland Plan in the park to ensure the environmental sustainability of tree species within the park	Using tree species survey to reflect good diversity of trees within the park	PASC Development officer and Park Rangers		■	○				Existing revenue budgets	Wood Management Plan being developed with assistance of Friends Of group in 2020.

Aim 4: To enhance the sustainability of the site										
Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
To ensure environmental sustainability	Follow good sustainable horticultural practices, such as minimising peat use	PASC Manager	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets Environmentally friendly	Trees and other flora sourced from local nurseries
Reduce CO2 emissions	Installation of solar panels on new buildings to be explored	Facilities Manager		✓	○	■	■	■	Sustainability budget	Solar panels installed on Café roof during construction
Encourage recycling	Explore possibility of further recycling with the park. Re-use all chippings on site as mulch.	PASC Park Rangers Parks Development officer	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	All wood chippings to be used on site. Recycle bin installed outside Café.
Sustainable sourcing of timber	Ensure all procured timber products meet the requirement of FSC Certification, or are from an accredited supplier.	PASC Officers & Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	

**Aim 4: To enhance the sustainability of the site**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Reduce environmental impact through transportation	Source all goods as locally as possible to reduce the need of delivery transportation/ Shipping.	PASC Officers & Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	
Minimise the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery	Leaf fall collected from Gedling Country Park is distributed to local allotment sites around the Borough.	PASC Officers & Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	
Evaluate and monitor air, noise, water and land pollution and influence others to reduce such pollution	Herbicides, chemicals, paints and other materials area all COSHH regulated and usage is kept to a minimum	PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	

#### Aim 4: To enhance the sustainability of the site

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Livestock grazing to be used on the park	Continue to utilise cattle grazing on the park, with a view to make this more permanent. Consult with local farmers	PASC Service Manager, Parks Development Officer	✘	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Livestock on site from September 2016. Expected gaps between 2017/18 whilst farmer moves stock around.
Investigate the development of the visitor centre with sustainability at its heart	Continue to investigate the development of the visitor centre with Nottingham Trent University Students	PASC Service Manager Parks Development Officer	✓	✓	✓	○			Existing revenue budgets	Visitor centre construction now completed.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
			AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA		
Ensure appropriate management of conservation and heritage features	Maintain records of quality of park fabric to ensure it meets a High Standard. Carry out visual checks and record findings during PASC park inspection with PASC supervisors and Parks Development Staff	Parks Development Manager	✓	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets	Park Walkabouts undertaken monthly and minutes distributed to key personnel for issues to be actioned.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
			AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA		
			✓	✓	✓	○	■		Existing Revenue budgets	FOG undertaking some thinning to create woodland education areas. Council committed to provide Tree Team to begin additional thinning of other woodlands.
<b>Woodlands:</b> Maintain and enhance the woodland areas to encourage healthy growth of trees and maintain a mosaic of woodland habitats.	Selective thinning should aim to remove 10-15% of trees focussing on less healthy or less desirable species. Woodland Edges should be maintained in tact	Parks Development Team Friends of group	W3 W4	W11	W4 W10	W9				
Increase the diversity within the woodland by improving the ground flora.	Application of woodland ground flora seed mix and plug plants in new plantations, 10% of each woodland area initially.	Parks Development Team Friends of group		✓ W3	✓ W3 W10	○ W4 W5	■		Existing Revenue budgets	FOG have planted native plugs in Woodland Glade. W5 following thinning of woodland to be planted with a mix of Woodland plugs in spring 2020.



**Aim 5: To conserve, enhance and promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
			AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA	AREA		
	Install Bird, Bat and Insect boxes on semi-mature to mature trees. Install bird boxes on posts at woodland edges	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■		Existing Revenue budgets	Bird Boxes are located throughout the site and new boxes are planned to be installed 2019/2020. For the time being Bat Boxes have not been installed until a qualified member of Nottinghamshire Bat group is available.
	Introduce coppicing in existing woodland/tree cover	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓ W3 W6	✓ W3 W6	✓ W3 W6	○ W3 W6	■ W3 W6		Existing Revenue budgets	Friends Of group continue to develop Coppice in W3.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
					■	○				
Investigate developing a Community Orchard	Identify area on site to develop a Community Orchard planted with Heritage Species of Apple, Pear Etc.	Parks Development Rangers and Friends Of group			■	○			Existing Revenue budgets	Friends Of group approached for their support in developing a Community Orchard. Further details in 10 Year Aspirational Plan.
Investigate a quiet area for Prayer and Reflection in Woodland	Identify area on site in which, to plant a circular outline of trees.	Parks Development Rangers and Friends Of group			■	○			Existing Revenue budgets	Friends Of group approached for their support in developing an area of contemplation. It is envisaged that local churches will be actively engaged in developing this idea. Further details in 10 Year Aspirational Plan.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
	Monitor all woodlands for continued healthy growth of trees and development of ground flora. Control spread of nettle and bramble	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓ All	✓ All	✓ All	○ All	■ All	■ All	Existing Revenue budgets	2019/2020 Volunteer Days have begun addressing areas of dense Bramble within park.
	Creation of woodland Educational/Therapy Area	Parks Development Team Friends Of	×		○ TBC				Existing Revenue budgets	
<b>Grasslands:</b> Maintain and enhance the structural and floristic diversity in the grassland areas.	Cut/Graze semi-improved neutral grasslands once per year in late September. One third of area cut each year, arising's removed.	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓ SNG1 SNG2 SNG3 SNG4 SI1	✓ SNG1 SNG2 SNG3 SNG4 SI1	✓ SNG1 SNG2 SNG3 SNG4 SI1	○ SNG1 SNG2 SNG3 SNG4 SI1	■ SNG1 SNG2 SNG3 SNG4 SI1	■ SNG1 SNG2 SNG3 SNG4 SI1	Existing Revenue budgets	Farmer continues to graze is cattle on grassland areas and the Butterfly Meadow was cut in September by PASC. Farmer is to be approached about cutting and bailing Butterfly Walk from 2020.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
	Scrub within the grassland areas should be maintained at current levels. A variety of ages of species should be maintained. Unwanted saplings should be removed as they arise	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓ All	✓ All	✓ All	○ All	■ All	■ All	Existing Revenue budgets	Community Pay Back, 'Friends Of' group and PASC continue to remove scrub from grassland areas.
	Control non-natives species and remove as necessary to prevent encroachment. (Grasslands)	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets	Lupins continue to be removed along with other control of non-native species within the park.

**Aim 5: To conserve, enhance and promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
	<p>Introduce 15m x 10m Bare Ground Scrapes. These should be maintained on a 4-6 year cycle.</p> <p>Maintain Scrapes in SNG1 to improve habitat for migrants' birds and amphibians.</p>	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✘	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets	Much work has been undertaken with the Friends Of group in 2019 to develop bare ground scrapes for Butterfly Conservation. Additional scrapes in SNG1 are also planned for 2020.
	If encroaching onto other grassland species, large areas of dominant tall ruderal vegetation should be treated such as hand pulling and spot herbicide.	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓ All	✓ All	✓ All	○ All	■ All	■ All	Existing Revenue budgets	Targeted maintenance as required.

**Aim 5: To conserve, enhance and promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
	Pesticides should not be used within the grasslands and herbicides should only be used where specified	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets	
	Explore opportunities for wildflower meadow creation	Parks Development Team Friends of group		✓ SNG2	✓ SNG2	○ SNG2	■ SNG2	■ SNG2	Existing Revenue budgets	Area around Tatton Garden to be developed into a sympathetic small meadow
Creation of a butterfly walk	Identify main path and maintain width	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets	Path mown in 2015 and maintained from there on. Butterfly Walk to be potentially, be cut and bailed by farmer in July.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Introduce Honeybees on to the park	Explore possibilities of Bee Hives being housed within the solar farm	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing Revenue budgets	Honeybees introduced in spring 2016. Moved to a new location in 2018.
<b>Hedgerows:</b> Maintain and enhance the hedgerows	Plant trees and shrubs along new hedgerow boundaries	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○			Existing Revenue budgets	
	Trim the sides of the hedgerow on Northern boundary (allowing it to continue to gain height).	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓		○		■		Existing Revenue budgets	

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
	Replanting, laying or coppicing to fill gaps in hedgerows where necessary	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓		○				Existing Revenue budgets	
	Monitor hedge growth and trim the sides of hedgerows where necessary	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓ H1	✓ H1	✓ H1	○ H1	■ H1	■ H1	Existing Revenue budgets	



**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
<b>Breeding Birds:</b> Prevent disturbance to nesting birds whilst maintaining the amenity value of the site and providing provision for the public to enjoy the wildlife. Maintain and enhance the habitat for birds	Install fencing (as a priority) to prevent disturbance of nesting birds.  See appendix for locations	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○			Existing Revenue budgets	Fences installed in 2016. Maintenance of these will be included in the maintenance plan and further fencing maybe introduced as budget becomes available.
	Investigate the possibility of constructing a sand martin bank.	Parks Development Team Friends of group			■	○			Existing Revenue budgets	Friends Of group still keen on project, but the GAR will influence any start date.
Undertake Scientific Research of Birds	Investigate the possibility of BTO involvement on park.	Park Rangers 'Friends of' group		■	✓					BTO active on park since 2019

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
<b><u>Ponds and Invasive species:</u></b> Treat New Zealand Pigmyweed. Maintain and enhance marginal vegetation in the ponds	New Zealand Pigmy Weed should be treated in all ponds. The Environment Agency will be contacted before using herbicides near water.	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✘	✘	✘	✘			Existing Revenue budgets	This work has been postponed until a financially viable option is available.
Common reed and bulrush coverage should be maintained at the current levels	Parks Development Team Friends of group	■ <b>Pond 3</b>	○	✓	○	■			Existing Revenue budgets	Work undertaken November 2019 to maintain Central Reed Bed (Pond 3). Contactor to undertake annual maintenance to deliver open water.

**Aim 5: To conserve, enhance and promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
	Consideration to be given to re-profiling to increase depth and prevent drying out	Parks Development Team Friends of group	× Pond 4	× Pond 4	× Pond 4	■ Pond 4	■ Pond 4		Existing Revenue budgets	'Friends Of' group would still like this work undertaking, but priority given to works on (Pond 3).
	Maintain as shallow water habitat. Monitor regularity of drying out, re-profile if occurring.	Parks Development Team Friends of group	× Pond 5	× Pond 5	× Pond 5	■ Pond 5	■ Pond 5		Existing Revenue budgets	Any works will be considered if revenue budgets are available.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
	Repair and re-create flashes around the solar farm	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✘	✓	✓				Existing Revenue budgets	Work to be undertaken winter of 2019/2020
<b>Monitoring:</b> Monitor the effects of management n flora and fauna	Ecological walkover surveys should be carried out every second year to monitor the effects of management	Parks Development Team Friends of group		✓	✓	■			Existing Revenue budgets	FOG assisting University Students to undertake surveys
	EMEC Ecology Amphibian surveys should be repeated every second year	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■		Existing Revenue budgets	As above
	Breeding bird surveys should be carried out every 2 years to ensure habitats are being maintained.	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■		Existing Revenue budgets	As above

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
				✓		■				
	Bat transect surveys are to be conducted to monitor the effects of habitat management.	Notts Bat Group, Parks Development Team Friends of group		✓		■			Existing Revenue budgets	Nottinghamshire Bat Group contacted 2019/2020 in respect of supporting Rangers/FOG
	Site wide and localised invertebrate surveys are to be carried out for an indication of management effectiveness	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■		Existing Revenue budgets	Friends Of group with the aid of Nottingham Trent University students have continued to monitor.
Interpret mining history, ecological interest and renewable energy sources on site	Commission new interpretation boards to be positioned around the site at suitable locations. Relative societies to be consulted	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○			Existing Revenue budgets	New interpretation panels continue to be installed as site is developed.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Increase the provisions of Art Installations on site	Liaise with appropriate 'Friends Of' members and the general public as to their preferences for future installations	Parks Development Team Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Memorial Garden Sculpture and bespoke benches installed in 2018. Nature Trail Sculptures also delivered 2018.
Continue to provide and conserve mining heritage	Install and maintain a Mining Memorial Garden at the centre of the site	Parks Development Team Friends of Group	✓	✓	✓	○			External funding and Existing revenue budgets	Memorial Garden developing with the assistance of the Friends Of group. Further improvements planned during 2019/20.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Declare the Country Park as an LNR	Undertake all necessary processes	Parks Development Team Friends of Group	○	✓					Officer time	Completed in 2018/19
Investigate the possibilities of installing viewing platforms around the East tip, making the most of the best and most interesting views	Groundwork commissioned to undertake investigative works and apply for funding on behalf of the Council, with their assistance	Parks Development Team, Groundwork, Friends of Group		■	○	✓			External funding	Funding secured and completion expected spring 2020.
Assist project officers in achieving the Gedling Heritage Interpretation Project as funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (£75,000)	Continue to assist where required and run with aspects which are delegated	Project Officers, Parks Development Team, Friends of Group, Schools	■	○	✓				External Funding, Officer time	Grant secured in September 2017, project plan available on field assessment

**Aim 6: To Develop the Park as a focus for the Local Community**

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Encourage the local community to be involved with the development and management of the park.	Support 'Friends of' meetings with regular attendance of staff. Involve the 'Friends' in planned development for the park	Park Rangers Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Ranger led meetings with the Friends Of group now occur monthly and objectives of both parties are discussed openly.
Increase 'Friends of' group membership	Help promote the group to increase awareness and membership	Parks Development and Park Rangers Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	



### Aim 6: To Develop the Park as a Focus for the Local Community

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Identify wider community involvement and use of the park	Carry out yearly surveys to identify wider community involvement in the park. Encourage private sector use i.e exercise class	Parks Development and Park Rangers Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Yearly Surveys have been undertaken
Provide opportunities for training of 'Friends of' group	Assist friends in fund raising by arranging a fund raising workshop. Ranger training in use of hand equipment and Health and Safety at work	Park Rangers Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	
Assist 'Friends of' group via marketing	'Friends of' stall at the Arnold Carnival	Park Rangers FOG	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Friends Of group now promoted through GBC Web-page

## Aim 6: To Develop the Park as a Focus for the Local Community

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Encourage local involvement	Provide opportunities for schools/local people in environmental tasks	Park Rangers, Friends of group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Schools, Girl Guides, Duke of Edinburgh and volunteers utilising facilities for education.
Facilitate, where possible, the provision of artwork on the park	Consider recommendations following 'City Arts' consultation process and the resulting report to provide a range of artwork on the park	Park Rangers, Parks Development Officer and Friends Group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Several new sculpture have been installed in 2018 and form part of a nature walk around the DDA compliant path. Other projects still being investigated.
Considerations to be given to a natural 'Amphitheatre'	Consider recommendations of 'City Arts' consultation to provide a natural Amphitheatre.	Park Rangers, Parks Development Officer and FOG	✓	✓	✗				Existing revenue budgets	Conflicts of interest between this and ecological conservation has halted this action.

**Aim 6: To develop the park as a focus for the local community**

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Encourage the use of the park as a setting for sport	Continue to work with Leisure Services, the Gedling Sports Partnership and Sport England to facilitate events on the park	Parks Development Officer, Friends Group, Leisure Services	✓	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Park Run is huge success on the country park and an orienteering course has been established in 2019.

## Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Publicise the park through national initiatives such as Green Flag to raise the parks profile and build local awareness through events and activities	Implementation of existing Marketing Strategy. Post events of Green Flag website.	Communications officer, Leisure events and arts officer, Neighbourhoods team, Parks Development, Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC and Leisure budgets	
Establish events linked to cultural/sport themes and National Initiatives	Establish annual events on the parks in line with experiences gained from other Gedling Borough owned parks	Communications officer, Leisure events and arts officer, Neighbourhoods team, Parks Development, Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC and Leisure budgets	Park Run is huge success on the country park and an orienteering course has been established in 2019.

## Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Establish events linked to environmental themes	Support the 'Friends of' group to host a variety of environmental events, along with children's activities and nature walks.	Communications officer, Leisure events and arts officer, Neighbourhoods team, Parks Development, Park Rangers	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC and Leisure budgets	Many environmental themed events by both the Rangers and Friends Of group have been delivered. Bat Walks, Bird Boxes Etc.
Promote the park and its facilities	Achieve regular coverage in the local media, press, radio and television. Ensure notice board information is up to date.	Communications Officer, Parks Development, Park Rangers.	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC and Leisure budgets	

### Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Explore the possibilities of QR codes on new interpretation panels	Liaise with appropriate bodies and designers to explore this avenue	Communications officer, Parks Development Park Rangers	✘	✓	○	■	■	■		Exploration taking place with the help of the comms. team
Deliver the Parks & Open Spaces strategy	Continue to prioritise and action the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy to provide good quality open space provisions	Leisure officer, PASC Manager, Development Officer	✓	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Parks and open spaces strategy expired in 2017, it will be updated in 2018

**Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing**

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Revise and upgrade Parks website page	Continually review online information and change where necessary. Investigate ways to improve visitor experience using I.T. Facilities	Communication Officer, Parks Development, Park Rangers & Arts development officer	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue budgets. Officer Time	Judges comments implemented. Links to Friends Of Web-page introduced 2019/2020.

## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Short term	Continue to attract capital funding for improvement through section 106 and external funding bodies such as Gedling Homes and 'Awards For All'.	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue & capital budgets. 106 contributions	Update 106 database  Record capital bids at earliest opportunity.  Be mindful of grant monies that may be drawn down by the Friends group.
Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Long term	Consider long-term management in all works and factor in costing's where available	PASC manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue budgets	In conjunction with the Parks & Open Spaces strategy. Identify areas for future 106 and Capital realms projects



## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Quality assessment	Review management practices to ensure efficient working methods	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue budgets	Lean management principals ongoing due to future budget reductions required.
Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Income streams	Explore opportunities for revenue generation (e.g. Hiring and regular private sector use of parks)	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue budgets	
Ensure effective implementation of management plan	Park based rangers responsible for implementing and co-ordinating management	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■		Monthly Parks Development/Parks Rangers meetings to progress tasks in place

## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
			✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed							
Ensure effective implementation of management plan – Identify current and future priorities	Monthly site walkabouts established with PASC Manager, Parks Development officer, Rangers and PASC supervisors. members of the Friends Group, GBC staff, and other stakeholders as appropriate, to monitor progress and identify outstanding priorities.	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue budgets	Monthly Parks Development/Parks Rangers meetings to progress tasks in place. Monthly site walkabouts

## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

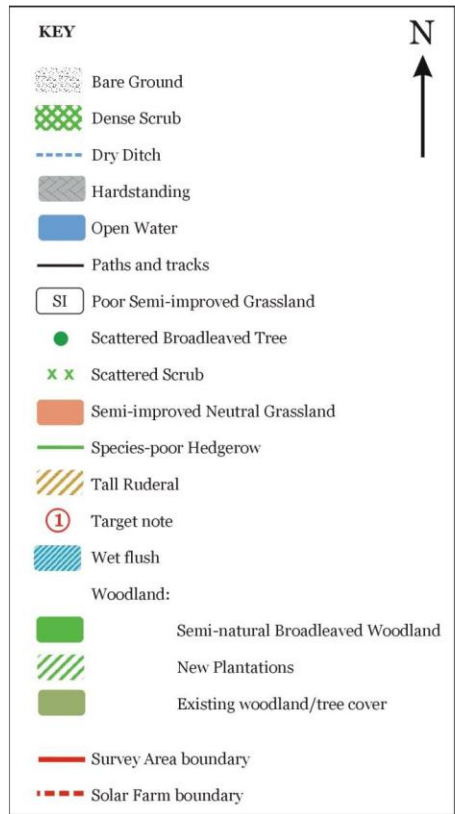
Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Ensure effective implementation of management plan – Green Flag preparation	Annual review of Management Plan and Action Plan progress	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue budgets	Monthly meetings to discuss management plan to ensure sections are reviewed on a rolling basis and updated as the year progresses
Ensure effective implementation of management plan – Partnership working with public/private and third party sectors	Regular meetings between Friends group, park staff, Neighbourhoods team, Leisure and PASC Projects, officers to discuss progress	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■	Existing PASC revenue budgets	Encourage and develop effective partnership working practices

### Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Introduce Voluntary car park fees	Consult with members and the public about the inclusion of VOLUNTARY car park fees to assist with cash generation for park maintenance and enhancement	Members, Car parking officer, Senior Leadership Team			○	■	■	■		Voluntary parking charge collection points installed in Jan 2018. Potential changes outlines in Aspirational Plan to make the Country Park financially sustainable through Car Park Charges,
Continue to support the friends in their wish to construct a Memorial G116arden	Work with friends of group, local partners and relevant Gedling Borough Council Staff to facilitate the provision of a memorial garden	Parks Development Team, 'Friends of' group	✓	✓	✓	○	■		Construction of the garden is well under way, expected to be completed in 2018/19	

## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objective	Action	Lead	Delivery						Resources	Comments
			Year 17/18	Year 18/19	Year 19/20	Year 20/21	Year 21/22	Year 22/23		
Enable 'Friends of' group to generate funding	Continue to provide advice and support to the 'Friends of' group when applying for funding and fundraising for themselves	Parks Development Team, 'Friends of' group	✓	✓	✓	○	■	■		Provide letters to authorise future maintenance and support its projects and help with third party funding applications



**Ponds, Woodland and Grassland Features of  
Gedling Country Park**

## APPENDIX 1 - RISK ASSESSMENT - HAZARDS AND CONTROL MEASURES (FORM HS 2)

	<b>Direct Services</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Parks and Street Care</b>	<b>Manager</b>	<b>Jane Richardson</b>
<b>Activity No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Friends Of Group Volunteers carrying out Pruning and Removal of Scrub/Small Trees</b>	<b>Activity Location</b>	<b>Gedling Country Park</b>

No.	Nature of Hazard	Risks	Severity Number	Exposure Number	Risk Number
1	Contact with hazardous substances, e.g. Dog Faeces.	Exposure to Toxicara virus	6	3	18
2	Improper use of hand tools	Physical injury	6	3	18
3	Slips, Trips and falls, uneven ground, any vertical obstacles	Physical injuries,	3	3	9
5	Adverse Weather Conditions	Wet clothing, illness Sunburn or hypothermia	3	3	9
6	Contact Injuries	Physical injury	3	3	9
No.	Current control methods in place to reduce the risk number		Severity Number	Exposure Number	Risk Number
1	Inspection and clean any identified prior to activities taking place.		4	3	12
2	Training on correct use and storage when not in use. Volunteers to provide their own gloves and sensible footwear, preferably steel toe capped boots/shoes.		2	3	6
3	Ground inspection. PASC staff to inspect all areas. Make sure working areas are easy to access, on level ground and no vertical obstructions. First aiders on site.		2	2	4
5	Cancel activity if severe weather conditions, advised to wear sensible outdoor clothing for activity.		2	2	4
6	Volunteers trained in safe use of tools and safe personal working space.		2	2	4

<b>Manager</b>				
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Is further action still required? If Yes, continue overleaf If No, complete the first review box overleaf

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### OUTSTANDING SIGNIFICANT RISKS

No.	Significant Risk	Required Action To Reduce Risk	Person Accountable	Target Date	Date Complete

All Action has now been taken to reduce the significant risks listed above

<b>MANAGER</b>		<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
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**REVIEW DATES** (To be completed annually or when the activity changes in any way)

<b>MANAGER</b>		<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
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# Example of Incident Report

Accident / Incident Investigation Report Form			
Part 1: a Council Officer / First Aider complete the first two parts, and if applicable with the Injured Person (IP).			
Reported by:	J Clayb	Injured Person/s Name (IP) Person/s involved	Matt Hudson
			Date of Birth: 6.4.85
Location of Incident: Address/Postcode	11 Vene Avenue Carlton	IP address	
Witness address / contact details:		Contact details: Phone Email:	
		Service Area	19
Vehicle Registration (if applicable)		Crew No. (if applicable)	N/A
Date:	10:00 am	Normal working hours:	7:30 - 4:00 pm
Time of event:	28/10/15	Actual Hours worked:	4 hours
Union Rep Consulted / informed:	-	IP Line Manager's Name:	M Cryer
Brief incident details (what, where, when, who, emergency measures taken, result of unsafe act e.g. horseplay / unsafe condition e.g. defective equipment, condition of the location, actions staff took, witness statements, see continuation sheet if necessary)			
<p>I was hedge cutting and I picked the hedge cutter up with the blade and cut my finger</p>			
(Tick box) <input type="checkbox"/> Sent Home <input type="checkbox"/> GP referral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attended hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Detained in hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Accident book entry (Employee only)			
		Name of first aider: .....	
Were the police called? Incident / crime number: No			
Was Injured person entitled to be		Where he/she was?	
Yes		Y/N	
		Doing what he/she was doing?	
		Y/N	

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Head / Nose / Neck</li> <li>2. Ear (left/right)</li> <li>3. Mouth / chin</li> <li>4. Eye (s) left/right</li> <li>5. Shoulder / Arm (left/right)</li> <li>6. Hand / Finger / wrist (left/right)</li> <li>7. Back</li> <li>8. Chest /Abdomen</li> <li>9. Groin</li> <li>10. Leg (left/right)</li> <li>11. Knee / Ankle (left/right)</li> <li>12. Foot (left/right)</li> <li>13. Toe(s) left/right</li> <li>14. Spine</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abrasion</li> <li>2. Allergic reaction</li> <li>3. Bite</li> <li>4. Biological</li> <li>5. Bruise</li> <li>6. Burn</li> <li>7. Concussion</li> <li>8. Cut</li> <li>9. Fracture</li> <li>10. Foreign body</li> <li>11. Impact injury</li> <li>12. Nose bleed</li> <li>13. Puncture</li> <li>14. Shock</li> <li>15. Sprain/Strain</li> <li>16. Swelling</li> <li>17. Sting</li> <li>18. Other/state:</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Accident</li> <li>2. Ill Health</li> <li>3. Near Miss</li> <li>4. Undesired circumstance/ hazard</li> <li>5. RIDDOR reportable</li> <li>6. Verbal/Physical abuse</li> <li>7. Accidental/ Criminal damage</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anti-social behaviour</li> <li>2. DSE/workstation related</li> <li>3. Electrical</li> <li>4. Exposure /contact harmful substance</li> <li>5. Fire</li> <li>6. Inflatable (Internal/External) - delete as app</li> <li>7. Manual Handling (lifting, pushing, pulling, carrying)</li> <li>8. Mechanical handling</li> <li>9. Machinery</li> <li>10. Near miss</li> <li>11. Pre -Existing condition (i.e. varicose veins)</li> <li>12. Poor water quality</li> <li>13. Pressure vessel</li> <li>14. Road Traffic collision</li> <li>15. Safeguarding (child protection)</li> <li>16. Slip, Trip, Fall</li> <li>17. Sports Participating</li> <li>18. Strike Moving object</li> <li>19. Strike Fixed/Stationary object</li> <li>20. Swimming</li> <li>21. Swimming club</li> <li>22. Swimming lessons (issues including: instructor, payment - unauthorised swim/no-credit, poor behaviour, lack of supervision, administration error)</li> <li>23. Theft</li> <li>24. Other/state:</li> </ol>
PPE in use at time of incident: High Vis Garment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Footwear <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ear Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Hard Hat <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other specify <input type="checkbox"/>			
Name of Council Officer / person completing form:		John Clark	
Position: Supervisor		Date: 29/10/15	
Contact details of Council Officer / person completing form: 3763			

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Sub 3 - a Supervisor/ Site manager completes the initial investigation and gathers information for the report

Reoccurrence potential for harm level:	Fatal	Major	Serious	Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Damage only
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To work out the investigation level refer to the guidance (pages 5-7)

Investigation level:	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
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Investigation to be completed within 48 hours of the event (SFARP)

Initial assessment carried out by	J. Clays	Date	29/10/15
Further investigation required?	Y/N	Investigation level required: (delete)	High/Medium/Low/None
Investigating officer:			

**PART 3 - Immediate Causes (examples) – circle most appropriate**

Substandard action	Substandard equipment/condition	Personal factors
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening equipment without authority</li> <li>Opening equipment when not fully trained</li> <li>Defective equipment</li> <li>Failure to use PPE correctly</li> <li>Unsafe position</li> <li>Improper lifting/ placing</li> <li>Horseplay</li> <li>Removing safety devices</li> <li>Using equipment incorrectly</li> <li>Under influence of alcohol/ drugs</li> <li>Failure to secure/ lock off</li> <li>Operating at improper speed</li> <li>Failure to warn</li> <li>Bomb threat (IED, letter, etc)</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate guarding</li> <li>Defective guarding</li> <li>Inadequate warning system</li> <li>Incorrect PPE provided</li> <li>Defective equipment</li> <li>Defective tool</li> <li>Fire and explosion hazards</li> <li>Noise exposures</li> <li>Poor housekeeping</li> <li>Congestion or restricted access</li> <li>Inadequate lighting</li> <li>Hazardous conditions e.g. gas/ dust/ fumes/ vapours/icy condition/hot environment</li> <li>Inadequate ventilation</li> <li>Hazardous arrangement/ design</li> <li>Water quality management</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical defects</li> <li>Mental defect</li> <li>Improper attitude/ motivation</li> <li>Existing medical condition</li> <li>Injury occurred outside of work</li> <li>Stress (not work related)</li> <li>Stress (work related)</li> <li>Verbally abusive to injured person/staff member</li> <li>Physical harm to IP</li> <li>Other specify</li> </ol>

Describe immediate causes: Not lifting machine with handle.

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**PART 3 continued**  
 A Department Site manager completes the initial investigation and gathers information on the event

Are any of the following actions required to support the report?

Photof sketches		Copies Risk assessments		Copies of Safe systems of work(NCOP's)		Copies of Training Records		Witness Statements taken? Use template	
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Answer and complete as applicable.

1. How did the adverse event happen? (note any equipment used)
lifting hedge cutters
2. What activities were being carried out at the time?
hedge cutting
3. Was there anything unusual or different about the working / environment conditions?
No
4. Were there adequate safe working procedures and were they followed?
Yes
5. What injuries or ill health effects if any were caused?
Cut to left Index finger
6. If there was an injury, how did it occur and what caused it?
Lifting hedge cutter up with blade
7. Was the risk known? If so, why wasn't it controlled?
No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> explain operator error
8. Did the organisation and arrangement of the work influence the adverse event? If yes provide detail or answer No
No
9. Was the maintenance, inspection and cleaning sufficient? Yes or No (if no, explain why not?)
Yes
10. Were the people involved competent to do the job? Yes or No (if no, explain why not?)
Yes
11. Did the workplace layout/design influence the adverse event? If yes provide detail or answer No
No
12. Did the nature or shape of the materials influence the adverse event? If yes provide detail or answer No
No
13. Did difficulties using the plant and equipment influence the adverse event? If yes provide detail or answer No
No

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PART 2 CONTINUED	
A Supervisor/ Site Manager completes the initial investigation and provides information for this event	
14. Was the safety equipment sufficient? Yes or No (if no, explain why not?)	Yes
15. Did other conditions influence the adverse event? if yes provide detail or answer No	No
16. What were the immediate, underlying and root causes? (refer to examples in guidance)	operator error.
Managers comments and analysis	
Explained to Matt the use of hedge cutters, be more careful when using machines and always pick machines up by the handle	
17. What risk control measures are needed /recommended? (if any)	
1.	—
2.	—
3.	—
4.	—
5.	
18. Do similar risks exist elsewhere? if so what and where?	No
19. Have similar adverse events happened before? Give details	No

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**Part 4 – Line Managers / Service Managers are responsible for this parts completion.**

20. Which risk control measure should be implemented in the long and short term?

Control measure	Completion Date	Person Responsible
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

21. Which risk assessment and safe working procedure needs to be reviewed and updated?

Name of risk assessment NOP/Operating procedure	Completion Date	Person Responsible
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

22. a. Have the details of the adverse event and the investigation findings been recorded and analysed?

22. b. Are there any trends or common causes which suggest the need for further investigation?

22. c. What did the adverse event cost? (Officer time investigating, equipment damage, approx. cost £).

23. Signed on behalf of the investigation team

Name	Position	Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	Supervisor	29/10/15

24. Members of the investigation team

Name	Position
MELVYN CRATER <i>[Signature]</i>	SERVICE MANAGER PASC

25. The findings of this investigation need to be communicated to

Name	Position	Date

26. Authorising Countersignature (Service Manager/ Corporate Director)

Name	Position	Date

Now send the completed form to the safety officer

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## **Appendix 2 - Gedling Country Park (Events Calendar 2020)**

The table below shows all of the events planned at Gedling Country Park both by Gedling Borough Council and the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park. Dates are correct at the point of writing, however it always a good idea to check the events are still running by checking <http://www.gedling.gov.uk/> and <http://www.gedlingcountrypark.org.uk/> prior to attending.

<b>GCP Proposed Events 2020</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
Every Sunday (Weather Permitting)	Volunteer Sessions	Join the 'Friends Of' Gedling Country Park for their weekly volunteer sessions, meeting in Spring Lane car park at 10am. Bring a packed lunch. Toilets available
Every Tuesday (Every Tuesday)	Volunteer Sessions	GBC, Friends Of GCP and NTU Student Volunteer Day
Monthly Environmental Activities	Periodic 'Friends Of' educational activities designed at educating the public about the park.	Dawn Chorus, Nature Walks etc.
February Half-term	BTO National Nest Box Week - Environmental Session (Gedling Borough Council)	Supporting this National event the Rangers will be holding an event to build nest boxes for the public to take home.
Easter School Holiday (6 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> April)	Bug and Solitary Bee Homes	Public event delivered by the Rangers and friends Of group.
Love Parks Week July	Picnic in the Park	Celebrating 'Love Parks' week this 'Picnic in the Park' is inspired by the environment.
Summer School Holiday	Environmental Events	Public events delivered by the rangers throughout the school holidays.

<b>GCP Proposed Events 2020</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
October Half-term	RSPB Feed the Birds Day  Wildflower Sowing  Hedgehog Habitat Creation	Public event supporting the RSPB in feeding our bird population. Public Event supporting the park in developing other wildflower habitats. Girl Guides activity to create hedgehog homes on the park.
23 <sup>rd</sup> November – 1 <sup>st</sup> December	National Tree Week	Tree planting with various partner organisations and groups

For more information on the events advertised, please contact:

[Parks@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:Parks@gedling.gov.uk)



Civic Centre

Arnot Hill Park

Arnold

Nottingham

NG5 6LU



### Appendix 3 - Gedling Country Park Marketing Strategy 2015-2020

**Aim:** To produce an effective marketing campaign that will encourage present and new visitors into the park to fill their leisure hours. It will promote the strong commitment that the Council has to its parks and open spaces, shown not least by its recent investment in Burton Road Jubilee Park. These marketing actions are built into the overall management aims for the site.



<b>Aim: To Encourage the Involvement of Local People</b>						
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DELIVERY</b>	<b>SUCCESS CRITERIA</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>OFFICER RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
<b>Ensure high profile of the park locally and Borough wide</b>	Develop Web Pages specifically for Gedling Country Park to include park facilities, photos and history information	This has been Implemented previously however it was taken down due to new Gedling Borough Council website being published with reduced information	Constant source of information. Hits to website/pages Customer feedback	Officer Time	IT Section Parks Development Officer and Communications.	Specific site information available for existing and potential users
	Develop and maintain specific digital media platforms like Facebook, Twitter for Gedling Country Park	This has been Implemented and is managed by the Gedling Borough Council's Comm's Team and Park Ranger. Posts by the 'Friends Of' members keep the posts fresh.	Constant source of up-to-date information.	Officer Time	Communications Team and Park Rangers	Specific site information available for existing and potential users of Facebook
	Develop the concept of post card satisfaction surveys for use at all events and activities	Ongoing	Satisfied customer feedback, with useful information e.g. recommendations for future events/facilities	Officer time	Park Development Officer/ 'Friends Of' Group	Gain satisfaction reviews of all visitors

<b>Aim: To Encourage the Involvement of Local People</b>						
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DELIVERY</b>	<b>SUCCESS CRITERIA</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>OFFICER RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
<b>Ensure high profile of the park locally and Borough wide</b>	Develop links with partners to promote the park wherever possible	Ongoing	User survey Increased customers	Officer Time	Park Development Officer	Improved partnership working
	Promote Parks satisfaction survey on webpage	Ongoing	Completed surveys received with suggestions for improvements by visitors, reach wider community	Officer time	Parks Development, IT staff	Gain satisfaction reviews of visitors, obtain improvement requirements
	Carry out face to face surveys with park users with assistance from friends group	Annually in summer	Completed surveys received with suggestions for improvements by visitors, reach wider community	Officer time	Parks Development, friends group	Gain satisfaction reviews of visitors and improved partnership working
<b>Assist with the promotion of community groups who use the park regularly</b>	Establish a small series of activities with community groups connected with the park designed to attract local people	Throughout the year	Increased community cohesion. Possible Income generation, assist to reach wider audience	Officer Time From existing revenue budgets	Parks development and Friends of group	Successful annual events
	Encourage the development of specialist subgroups through specialist events e.g. gardening groups	Seasonal	Landscape improvements and maintenance	Officer Time From existing revenue budgets	Parks development, friends group	Successful themed events

<b>Aim: To Establish Gedling Country Park as a Major Visitor Attraction Within the Area</b>						
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DELIVERY</b>	<b>SUCCESS CRITERIA</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>OFFICER RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
<b>Build Local Awareness</b>	Press releases for all major events in the park	Ongoing	Increased attendances at major events	Officer Time	Various officers responsible for individual events and communications staff	Activities and events well publicised
	Consult with the public to establish needs & establish alternative ways to consult	Ongoing	Improvements following consultation Positive comments from consultation	Officer Time	Parks development	Reach wider audience and council informed of visitor expectations
<b>Promote the park through events, activities and exhibitions</b>	Utilise cross marketing opportunities at facilities and events across the borough to exhibit the park	Ongoing	Literature in Leisure Centres, Libraries & Theatre Information at 3 events	Existing revenue	Parks development	Promotion at shows and events in Borough
	Continue to investigate innovate ways to draw people into the park. E.g. small scale events, Wildlife conservation	Ongoing	Attendance Feedback	Officer Time	Various officers responsible for individual events	Increased visitor numbers
	Interpret and promote Conservation and Heritage through on site interpretation signage	Ongoing	Users informed of the conservation and heritage value of the park	Existing revenue budget/assistance with friends group funding	Parks development	Improved facilities/ information sharing.

## Aim: To Establish Gedling Borough Council as a Major Visitor Attraction Within the Area

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY	SUCCESS CRITERIA	RESOURCES	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOMES
<b>Raise the profile of the park</b>	Retain and promote Green Flag Award	Annual	Achieving and maintaining Green Flag Award	Officer Time Existing revenue budgets	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer	Achieve Green Flag award during period of plan
	Design and produce a series of high quality promotional information, guides and literature for the park	Ongoing where funding allows	Several leaflets produced E.g. Gedling Country Park Map and Guide, Nature and Tree Trail Booklet	Officer Time Existing revenue budgets	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers	Reference material available in accessible format for all. Friends Of group responsible for some marketing material.
<b>Establish users of the park</b>	Publish the parks Management plan on the webpage	This has been implemented previously however it was taken down due to new Gedling Borough Council website being published with reduced information	Published plan is current	Officer time	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer,	Plans on website
	Devise and carry out visitor satisfaction surveys	At all events, available on webpage and annual face to face surveys	Feedback from users Improvements following survey Number of survey's completed	Officer time	Parks Development Officer, rangers	Reach wider community members

## Appendix 4 – Judges Feedback (2018)

**Name of Site: Gedling Country Park**

**Managing Organisation: Gedling Borough Council**



**Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and Supporting Documentation)**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	Well laid out, readable document. MP is divided into sections which broadly correspond to Green Flag criteria, making it easy to read and find relevant information.	MP states in different places that the land is both leased and owned. This requires clarification. It would be good to see evidence and details of the review of the MP. A table of revisions would be useful detailing date of revision, page number and author. Although the MP is well laid out and readable, the regular changes in orientation between	In respect of 'Land' ownership, amendments to the main text have now been amended to reflect that Gedling Borough Council are now the owners of the site.
<b>Health, Safety and Security</b>	Reporting procedures for issues and extent of on-site presence clearly laid out.	Regularity and nature of inspections is not stated. This would be useful to know. Is there a formal inspection procedure, or is it more ad hoc? Are inspections recorded, if so where?	Following the judges' comments monthly inspections are now undertaken by the Ranger and PASC Supervisors to highlight any Health and Safety issues arising from the fabric of the park. Minutes of the walkabout are distributed to all relevant officers and are duly actioned.

<b><u>Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Strengths</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<b><u>Action taken</u></b>
<b>Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings and Landscape</b>	Breakdown of regular maintenance schedules in place	MP states that 2 full time maintenance staff have responsibility for the site, but have duties elsewhere. It would be useful to know approximately how much of their time is spent on Gedling Country Park and how this relates to a Full Time Equivalent.	
<b>Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism</b>	Programme of dog walker education in place	Some detail of weekend and Bank Holiday arrangements would be useful, as this is obviously a busy time, especially in good weather. Is this covered by the friends group, even on an informal basis, or is the site left to its own devices until the next working day?	No Weekend or Bank Holiday cover is available due to financial constraints. The friends Of group and Community Payback assist where there is a shortfall, but this issue is always being reviewed by the parks team. Aspirations exist for more staffing.
<b>Environmental Management</b>	Green energy production through solar farm and methane extraction plant on site. Beehives also on site	MP states that herbicides are used only when warranted, but maintenance schedule states application takes place twice per year. It would be useful to have this clarified and to have some detail as to what steps are being taken to reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides. Also, what constitutes a warranted use of herbicide?	Herbicides are only used as a tool to manage certain aggressive scrub species and to maintain the integrity of the DDA Compliant pathways. Some encroachment by weeds have begun to damage the resin bound gravel paths and as such, chemical spraying with Glysohate is required periodically.

<b><u>Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Strengths</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<b><u>Action taken</u></b>
<b>Conservation of Heritage &amp; Nature</b>	Ecological survey and plan in place and feeding into MP. Mining heritage of site central to on-site interpretation	Again, some measurable targets and indication of progress would be useful.	Table of species survey data included in plan on Page 34, much more work to be undertaken in future years.
<b>Community Involvement</b>	Friends Group central to site management.  Park Run on site.	It would be good to see a summary of the results from consultation that has been carried out. A table of responses would be adequate for this.	Survey data is undertaken annually and patrons of the park questioned. Results of the survey will be available at the Field Assessment.
<b>Marketing Strategy</b>	Interpretation covers site's heritage and varied ecology.  Site specific website.	Would like to see a summary of the marketing strategy as it relates to Gedling Country Park, rather than just a reference to a separate generic document. There doesn't appear to be any reference to the use of social media (a powerful marketing tool!), is this contained within the marketing strategy?	Social media amongst other marketing tools are widely used by the Council and the Friends Of group to successfully market Gedling Country Park. A summary of the Marketing Strategy Evidence as now been included in the Management Plan.
<b>Overall Management</b>	Clear aims and objectives. Partnership working with a wide variety of other agencies. Responsive to feedback. Clear action plan. Useful SWOT analysis.	There is room for more specific, measurable targets within the MP, as well as indicators of what has been done and what is ongoing towards meeting those targets	We would appreciate more feedback from the judges so that we can clearly, be more specific about these targets.

## Field Assessment Feedback

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	<p>Well signposted.            Good parking.            Well used.            Good sightlines            Visitor centre immediately visible on arrival            Maps on site are orientated to the viewer's position.</p>	<p>There is a lack of signage on entrances from the new housing development off Spring Lane.</p> <p>It would be good to see plans for additional parking progressed.</p> <p>The areas that are meant to be wildflower areas outside the visitor centre require attention. The judges are aware that this is a snagging issue with the contractor, but this area currently detracts from the vista of the visitor centre which is the first thing most people see upon arrival and as such merits greater urgency.</p> <p>The large weeds between the paving slabs and the wall at the visitor centre entrance have also clearly been there for some time.</p>	<p>The lack of signage on newly developed housing estates as now been addressed.</p> <p>Additional parking spaces to the right of the main entrance of Spring Lane should be completed in December 2019.</p> <p>Both the Friends Of group and the council are aware of the need to improve the parks appearance around the visitors centre to the public and plans are ongoing to smarten this area-up. New seating area and sympathetic planting schemes should in the coming year should improve the image of the park.</p> <p>We will ensure that snagging issues similar to these identified by the judges are dealt with more promptly.</p>



<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Action taken</b>
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>	Well used and maintained.  Regular on-site presence in the form of Ranger, maintenance staff and the friends group. Site feels safe.	It would be beneficial to investigate what further measures could be taken to reduce vehicle speed when approaching, leaving and within the car park.	Certainly, as a Parks Department we have jurisdiction over highways, but future consideration to speed limits in our own car parks could be addressed by signage.
<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>	Largely litter free.  Very little evidence of dog fouling	Some areas of the crushed limestone paving are already suffering from erosion. Further concrete drainage channels as are in place elsewhere would address this.  Memorial garden needs attention, particularly the raised planters. Perhaps consider low maintenance planting schemes such as hardy / shrubby herbs.	Given the extensive use of the park some areas of the limestone pathways are becoming eroded and maintenance work is scheduled during the winter months of 2019/20.  The Memorial Garden is undertaking some more work during 2019/2020 following consultation with the Friends Of group. They still wish to maintain the garden with a native planting theme, but now understand that this formal area needs to be managed to a higher stand than previously.
<b>Environmental Management</b>	Green energy production on site.  Visitor centre entrance lighting on PIR.	Pursue options for on-site recycling.	Like a lot of our parks Gedling Country Park now as been fitted with recycling bins outside the café area.

<b><u>Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Strengths</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<b><u>Action taken</u></b>
<b>Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage</b>	<p>Excellent use of site for habitat, biodiversity and heritage.</p> <p>Livestock grazing on site to manage grassland.</p>	<p>Look at sources of funding to help manage woodland as this will quickly become too big a task for the ranger and friends group.</p> <p>Manage scrub encroachment in non-grazed areas</p>	<p>The Parks Department In-house Tree Team will be become fundamental in managing the woodland areas long-term.</p> <p>Scrub management has been helped by the SLA Agreement with Community Payback. Several weeks work have been undertaken in the autumn of 2019 and it is envisaged that this resource will be used in subsequent years. Weekly, Friends Of group volunteers sessions supported by the Rangers will also sustain the management of this issue.</p>
<b>Community Involvement</b>	<p>Exceptionally strong and active friends group.</p> <p>Park Run active and popular.</p> <p>Regular groups of corporate volunteers on site.</p>	<p>Continue to support and develop friends group.</p>	<p>The Council are actively looking at forging a better working relationships with the Friends Of group and monthly meetings are now attended by both representatives of the Council and the Friends Of group to address issues.</p>

<b><u>Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Strengths</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<b><u>Action taken</u></b>
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>	<p>Friends group have active and popular Facebook page and website.</p> <p>Good on-site information and interpretation.</p> <p>Plan for further interpretation with the use of QR codes.</p>	<p>GBC's web page for the park is very basic and limited. Consider either developing this, or signposting the Friends Of group pages if they are the primary source of info for the park.</p>	<p>GBC's web page are typical of a governments sites, but we are always keen to develop the pages and work annually with the council's Communications Department to fresh the parks pages. The site now carries a signpost to GCP Friends Of website.</p>
<b>Management</b>	<p>Good political support. Possibility of ranger becoming full time. Excellent support from friends group.</p>	<p>The judges look forward to seeing the next phase of planned developments.</p>	

**Additional Comments:** - Gedling Country Park is still in the infancy of its development and yet is already well worthy of its Green Flag Award. The plans and aspirations that the management team and the friends group have for the site will only enhance this even further and we look forward to seeing the site continue to develop and improve. With this in mind, the feedback in this report should not in any way be viewed as criticism, but rather as help and advice to aid the site in reaching its full potential. Keep up the good work!